3
Higasa Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR
Ich liebe
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3
Higuchi Akai

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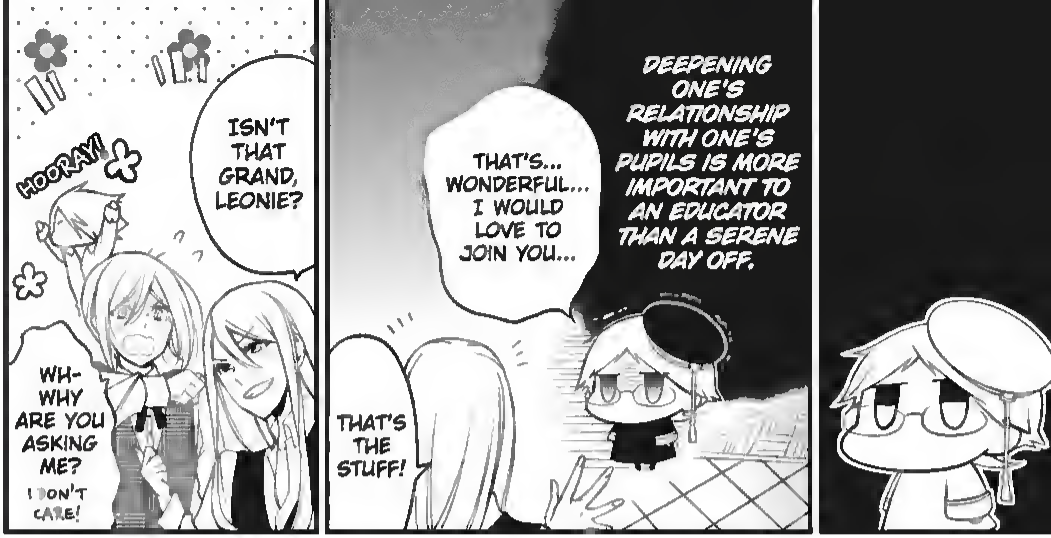
HEINE WITTGENSTEIN, ROYAL TUTOR.
HIS DUTY: TO GROOM THE FOUR PRINCELINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH INTO WORTHY CANDIDATES FOR THE THRONE.
Chapter 13
A Budding Maiden's Heart
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM, FOR ITS KING, AND FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL AIMS...
...HEINE'S LESSONS CONTINUE.....

...BUT NOT TODAY. TODAY IS HIS DAY OF REST.
CLINK
...A DEEP AND PLEASING AROMA.
AS BEFITS ESPRESSO SERVED IN THE ROYAL PALACE.
KNOCK
KNOCK
!!!
SIPPING COFFEE WHILST RELAXING WITH A STACK OF BOOKS, AND WITHIN A PALACE AT THAT...
A MOST LAVISH HOLIDAY FOR A COMMONER SUCH AS MYSELF.

GOOD MORNING TO YOU, MASTER!
PWIP
TEACHER... GOOD MORNING...
KACHAK
I-IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE THE TIME TO HUMOR US, HOWEVER—
NO WORDS CAN EXCUSE OUR INTRUSION ON YOUR DAY OF RESPITE.
MORNIN'!
HMPH.
WHAT BRINGS YOUR HIGH-NESSES HERE?
AND YOU'RE INVITED, TEACH!
LOOM
GOING ON A PICNIC... TOGETHER ...!


ISN'T THAT GRAND, LEONIE?
HOORAY!
WH-WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME? I DON'T CARE!
DEEPENING ONE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE'S PUPILS IS MORE IMPORTANT TO AN EDUCATOR THAN A SERENE DAY OFF.
THAT'S... WONDERFUL... I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN YOU...
THAT'S THE STUFF!

YAY!
YAY!
I SUPPOSE I CANNOT REGRET SACRIFICING MY DAY OFF...
...IF MY ATTENDANCE PLEASES THEM TO THIS EXTENT.

ALTHOUGH, ONE OF MY PUPILS DERIVES A LEVEL OF PLEASURE THAT IS MOST UNCOMMON.
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
T-TO BE WITH MASTER... DURING HIS PERSONAL TIME...

ASKING MASTER ACADEMIC QUESTIONS DURING HIS PERSONAL TIME WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE! WHAT DO I SAY, THEN? D-DARE I ASK WHAT HIS HOBBIES ARE...?
MUTTER
MUTTER
OH YEAAAH.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO'LL BE PICNICKING TODAY!
?
OH! HERE WE ARE.
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, PROFESSOR.
TAK

MY WORD, BUT HE IS A GALLANT-LOOKING YOUNG MAN...
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOUR HEROIC EXPLOITS.
THEY SAY YOU'RE THE ONLY ROYAL TUTOR TO HAVE EVER TAMED THIS LOT!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I AM A GROWN MAN.
HMPH.
WHAT!?
KRACK
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.
I SEE YOU ARE YOUNGER THAN MY KID BROTHERS. HOW MANY YEARS ARE YOU, THEN, LAD?
YOU'RE A TINY CHAP, AREN'T YOU?
KRACK
WHO MIGHT THIS YOUNG MAN BE?
L-LOOK HERE—
A-ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU, MASTER.
THIS IS OUR COUSIN ON OUR MOTHER'S SIDE...
GOODNESS ME...TO PRINCESS ADELE...?
SHE IS BUT THREE YEARS OF AGE...
TEE-HEE!
THEY'RE BE-TROTHED!
BE-TROTHED ...?

BEATRIX VON LOTHRINGEN...
...KAI'S FIANCÉE.
ぽんっ
POP

I BEG YOUR PARDON, LADY BEATRIX.
YOUR HAT.
NO, NO. CAN'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.
I'VE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR A BOY A FAIR FEW TIMES.
DRESSES AND THE LIKE DON'T SUIT ME, SO I DON'T WEAR THEM.
SMILE
にこ
I WAS QUITE RUDE TO YOU AS WELL.
LET'S CALL IT WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, SHALL WE?
WHAT A GENTLE-MAN...
A GENTLE-MAN INDEED.
*A WOMAN
THE TRUEST GENTLEMAN I HAVE EVER MET...

OUR CARRIAGE AWAITS. SHALL WE?
ACTUALLY, I PROPOSED THIS LUNCHEON.
I FANCIED A PICNIC IN THE NATIONAL PARK JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN.
HOLD ON, NOW! YOUR BUTTONS ARE OFF!
.....

THANK YOU...
ALL FIXED!
BUT SEE, THE MATCH WAS ARRANGED BY OUR PARENTS, SO THEY DON'T COME OFF AS A COUPLE AT AAALL.
BEA IS FROM AN IMPORTANT NOBLE FAMILY, AND SHE WAS A CHILDHOOD COMPANION OF OURS TOO.
SO IT IS THAT SORT OF ARRANGEMENT...

WHISP
...PRINCE KAI HAS A FIANCÉE AT ONLY SEVENTEEN?
IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR ROYALS TO BE BETROTHED AT A YOUNG AGE.
ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT

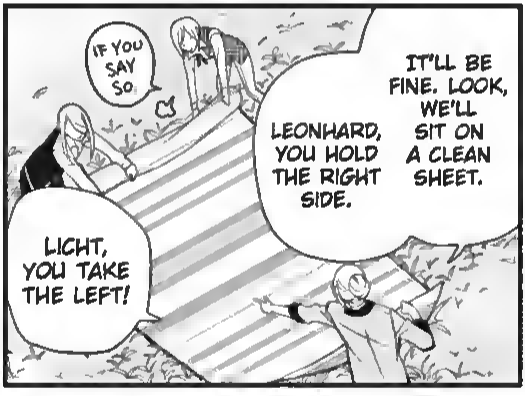
...
"EVERY-ONE"...
...IS IT...?
GIDDY
EVERY-ONE... PICNICK-ING... CAN'T WAIT...
BEATRIX...
GOOD TO SEE YOU, KAI.
TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR ENGAGEMENT WAS ARRANGED.
YET I SENSE THAT KAI STILL DOESN'T SEE ME AS A WOMAN.
TODAY'S THE DAY WE START ACTING LIKE WE'RE BETROTHED!
WELL, COME ON. WORK UP THE COURAGE TO ASK HIM, OR THE LUNCH YOU MADE WILL GO TO WASTE!

S...
SAY...
?
D-DO YOU WANT TO...
...TO GO ON A PICNIC...!?
YES!
GLUCK
GLOW
R-REALLY!?
!
WITH EVERY-ONE!

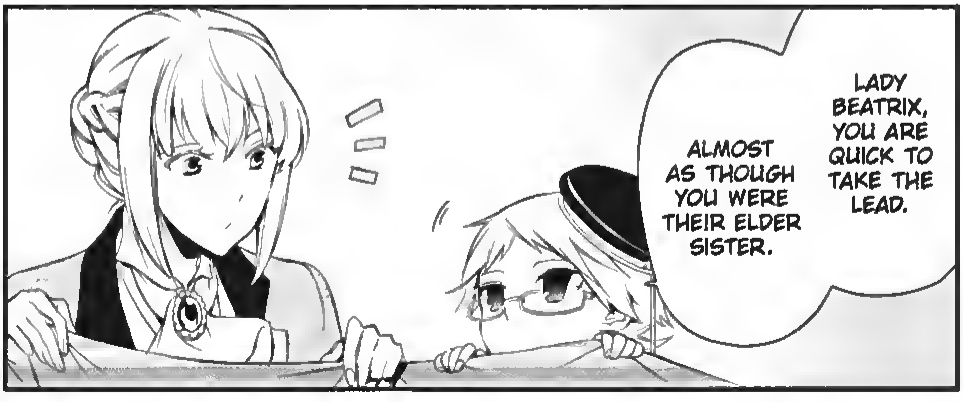
CLENCH
NO, NO. WE MIGHT STILL GET A CHANCE TO BE ALONE!
THE MORE THE MERRIER, AS THEY SAY, BUT COME ON...
← KAI
DARE I IMAGINE IT?
EVEN THE BEAUTY OF THE SETTING SUN PALES IN COMPARISON TO YOU, MY BEATRIX...
OH, KAI...
A MAIDEN'S FANTASY!
GRINNING AT NOTHING OVER THERE? HOW DISTURBING.
ACK!
THAT EXCITED OVER A PICNIC, ARE YOU? WHAT A CHILD!
PFFT.
I WON'T HAVE A CHILD CALLING ME CHILDISH!!

MMM, CAN'T BEAT THIS WEATHER! FEELS SPLENDID!
SHALL WE SPREAD OUT OUR LUNCH NOW?
GLANCE
GLANCE
HUH?
WHERE ARE THE TABLE AND CHAIRS?
UH, NOWHERE? WE'LL EAT ON THE GROUND, OBVIOUSLY.
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ASK?

M-MADNESS!! O-ON THE GROUND !!?
BUT IT IS NOT EVEN PAVED...
FEELING REAL TURNED OFF HERE...
WELL, TOO BAD! THIS IS HOW PICNICS WORK FOR EVERYONE OTHER THAN THE ROYAL FAMILY!

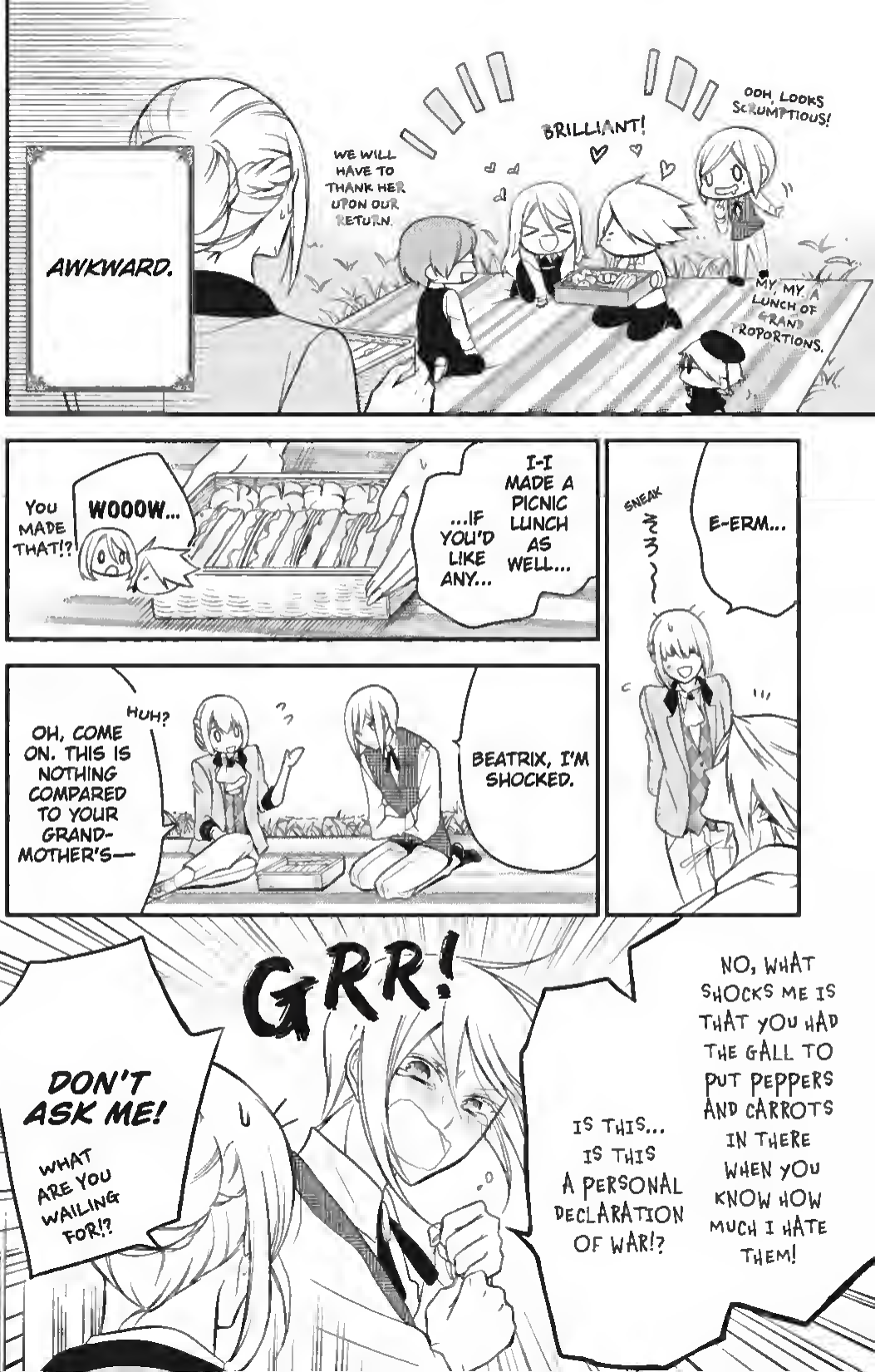

IF YOU SAY SO.
IT'LL BE FINE. LOOK, WE'LL SIT ON A CLEAN SHEET.
LEONHARD, YOU HOLD THE RIGHT SIDE.
LIGHT, YOU TAKE THE LEFT!

I ALWAYS SLEEP ON THE GRASS...
IT'S NICE...
KAI, YOU FOR ONE COULD STAND TO ACT MORE LIKE A ROYAL.

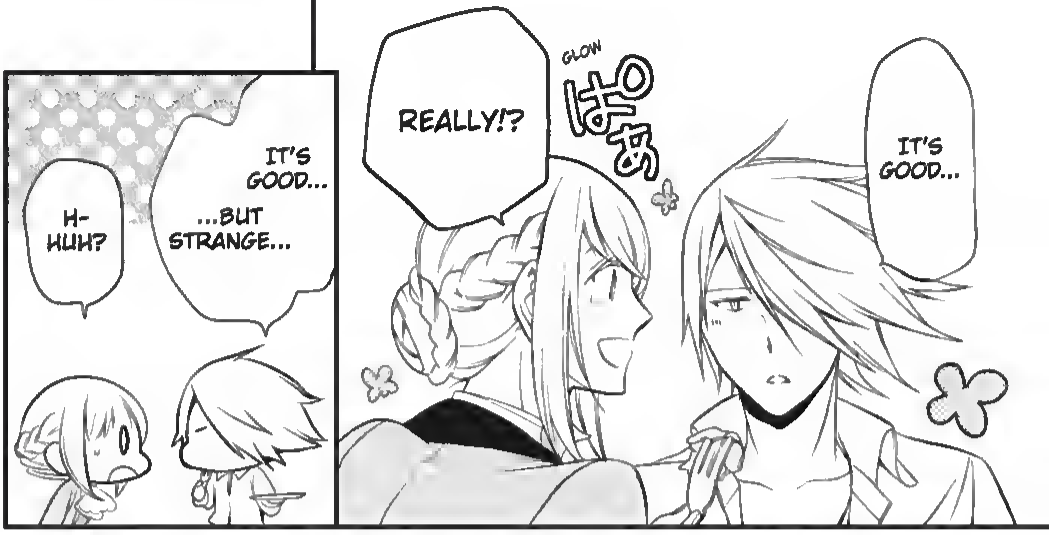

LADY BEATRIX, YOU ARE QUICK TO TAKE THE LEAD.
ALMOST AS THOUGH YOU WERE THEIR ELDER SISTER.

I WAS DRAGGED INTO HELPING ALL THE TIME.
THEY WERE TOO MUCH FOR KAI TO MIND BY HIMSELF WHEN THE ELDEST PRINCE WAS OFF ELSEWHERE.
MM. I DID LOOK AFTER THEM OFTEN WHEN THEY WERE LITTLE.
HEY!
SNIFF SNIFF
LICHT WAS A SICKLY LITTLE THING TO BEGIN WITH— AND HIS FEAR OF SLEEPING ALONE DROVE HIM TO TEARS!
WH...
MMF! MMF!
LEONHARD WOULD PUT ANYTHING IN HIS MOUTH, THE LITTLE HALF-WIT.
THE PRINCES' WEAK-NESSES. GOOD TO KNOW.
NOT IN FRONT OF MASTER!
AND BRUNO WAS ALWAYS WETTING THE B—

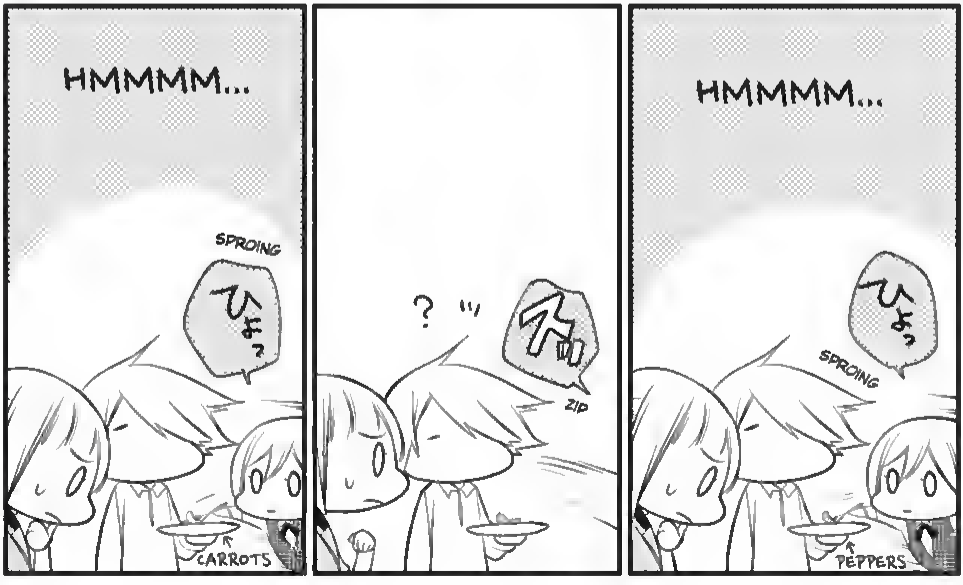
THERE! THE PICNIC SHEET IS READY!
TIME... TO SET OUT LUNCH...
IT'S SHOWTIME!
I PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO THIS LUNCH...!
I TRAINED UNDER OUR CHEF SO THAT I COULD MAKE IT MYSELF. IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO SHOW KAI MY FEMININE—
HERE... GRAND-MOTHER... GAVE US LUNCH...
TA-DAA


AWKWARD.
WE WILL HAVE TO THANK HER UPON OUR RETURN.
BRILLIANT!
OOH, LOOKS SCRUMPTIOUS!
MY MY. A LUNCH OF GRAND PROPORTIONS.
YOU MADE THAT!?
WOOOW...
I-I MADE A PICNIC LUNCH AS WELL...
...IF YOU'D LIKE ANY...
SNEAK
E-ERM...
OH, COME ON. THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S—
HUH?
BEATRIX, I'M SHOCKED.
GRR!
DON'T ASK ME!
WHAT ARE YOU WAILING FOR!?
IS THIS... IS THIS A PERSONAL DECLARATION OF WAR!?
NO, WHAT SHOCKS ME IS THAT YOU HAD THE GALL TO PUT PEPPERS AND CARROTS IN THERE WHEN YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE THEM!

S-SO MANY... PEPPERS AND CARROTS ...
NGH!
DON'T BE PICKY! CLEAN YOUR PLATE!
HERE
ズイッ
SHOVE
GOOD GRIEF. YOU'RE FIFTEEN!
FORK
FORK
ひょい
ひょい
THANKS.
HERE, KAI. EAT UP.
IS IT GOOD?
IS...
STARE
じぃ。
MMH...
MMM...


H-HUH?
IT'S GOOD...
...BUT STRANGE...
REALLY!?
GLOW
はな
IT'S GOOD...

F... FULLER?
? ?
AS I EAT...MY PLATE GETS FULLER...


HMMMM...
SPROING
ひょっ
CARROTS
? 〃
ZIP
HMMMM...
ひょっ
SPROING
PEPPERS

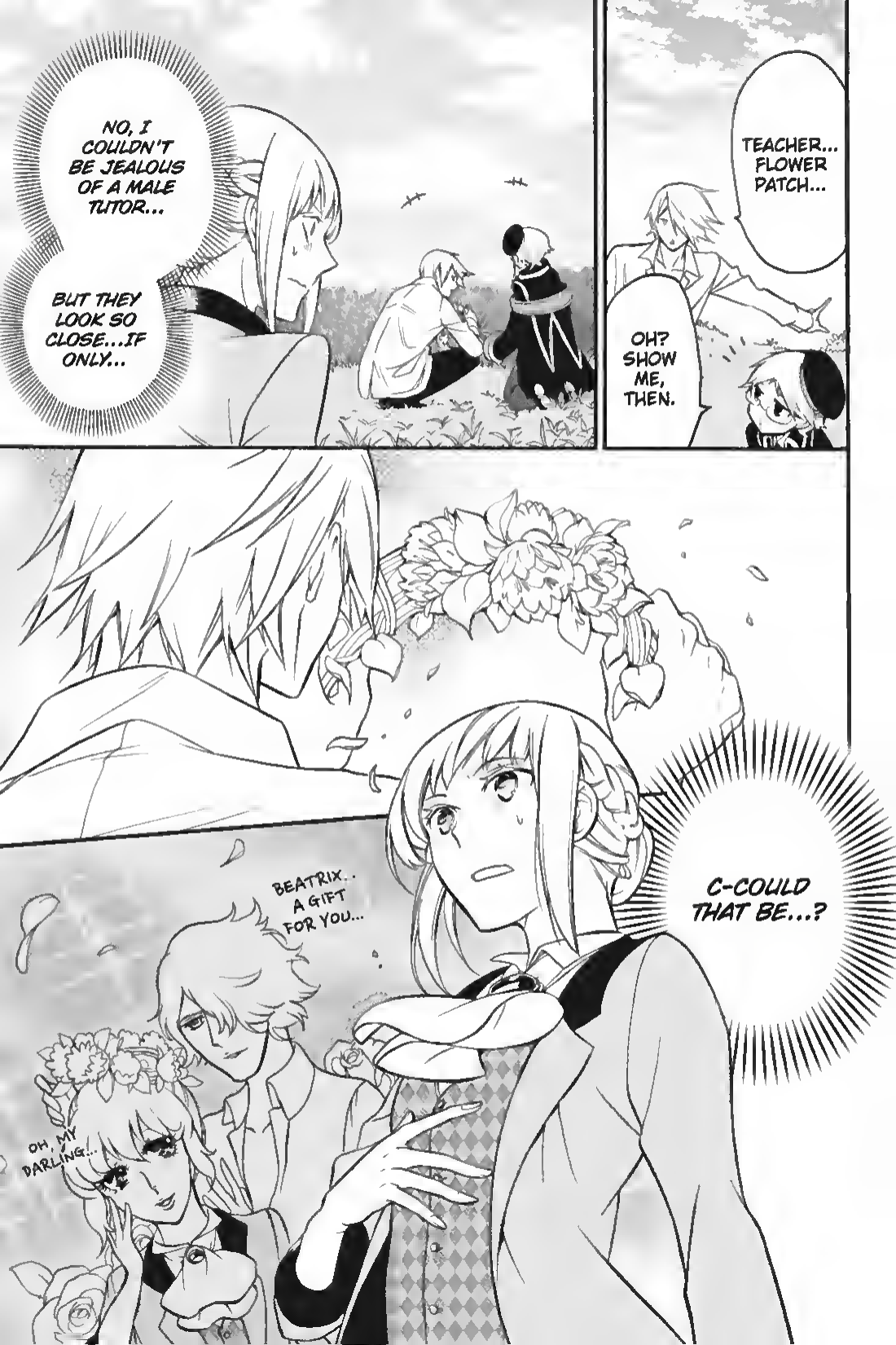
I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION, LEONHARD.
THOSE PRACTICED MOVEMENTS... THIS REEKS OF A REGULAR HABIT.

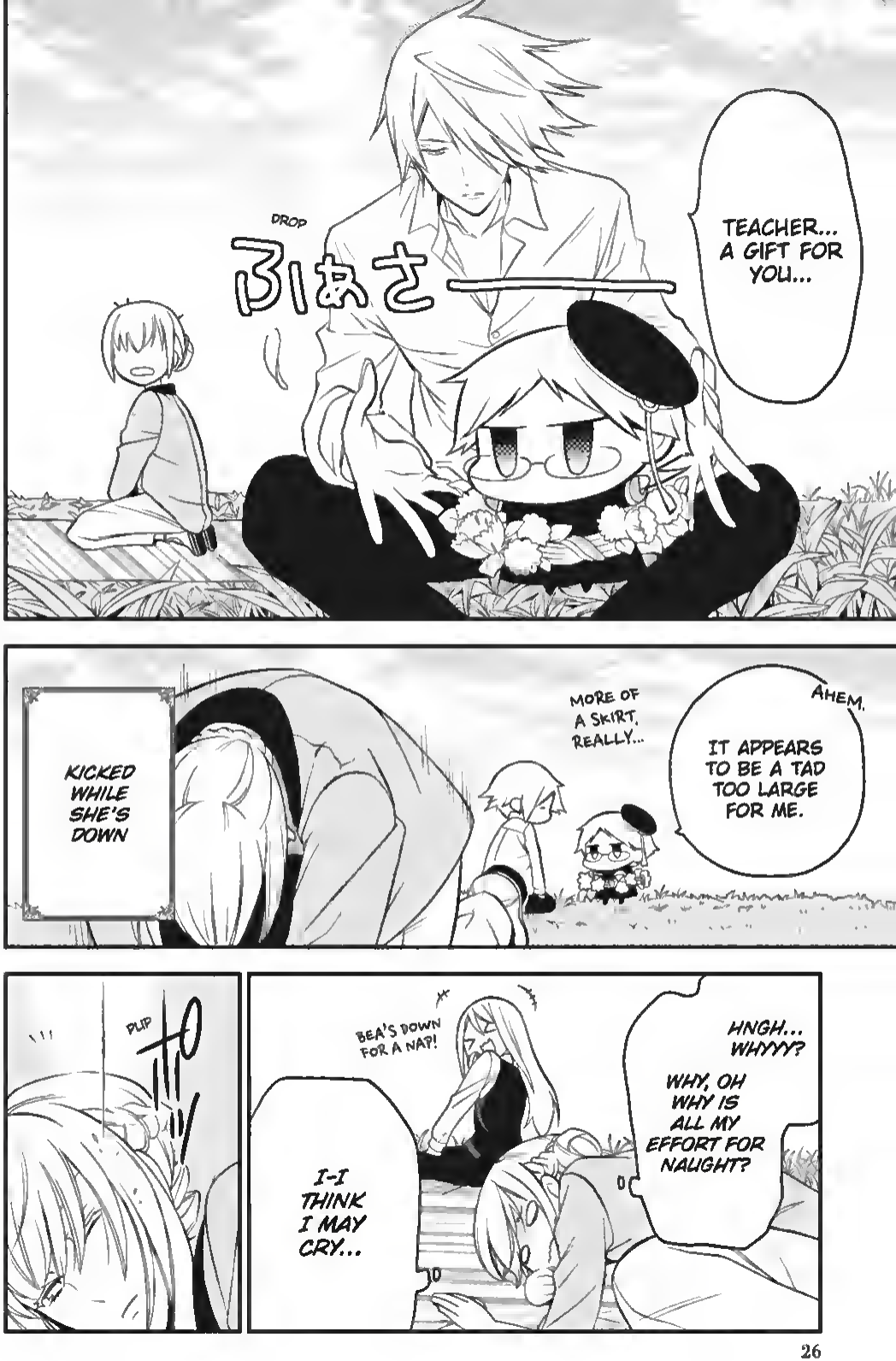
HOW FAR DOES HE GO TO AVOID EATING HIS VEGETABLES?
I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED...
B-BUT I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO EAT THEM!
FORGIVE ME!
CONFESS. CONFESS IT ALL.
I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS CLEANED YOUR PLATE! DO NOT TELL ME THAT ALL THIS TIME, YOU...!

ふるふる
QUIVER QUIVER
I BLEW ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHOW MY FEMININE SIDE!
?
OH, YOU! LET ME GET THAT FOR YOU.
SAY "AHH"!

NO! KAI FINISHED EATING WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED!
GASP
!!

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, KAI?
...OVER THERE.
HMM?
STARE
FLUFFY-WUFFY.
OH! HOW CUTE!
WILD RABBITS!
BIG (TALL FOR A WOMAN AT 5'8")
NOT AT ALL CUTE, IN HER OPINION
HRK!
AH HA HA
YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOR TINY, CUTE CREATURES, DON'T YOU?
I CAN'T COM-PETE...!!
CHEW CHEW
もきゅ もきゅ
TINY
CUTE

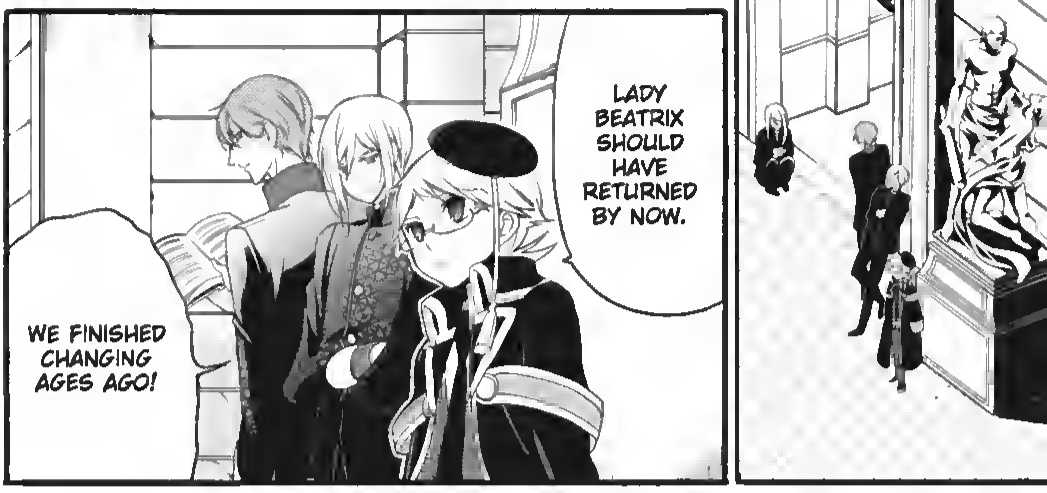

NO, I COULDN'T BE JEALOUS OF A MALE TUTOR...
BUT THEY LOOK SO CLOSE...IF ONLY...
TEACHER... FLOWER PATCH...
OH? SHOW ME, THEN.
C-COULD THAT BE...?
BEATRIX.. A GIFT FOR YOU...
OH, MY DARLING..


DROP
ふぁさ
TEACHER... A GIFT FOR YOU...
KICKED WHILE SHE'S DOWN
MORE OF A SKIRT, REALLY...
AHEM, IT APPEARS TO BE A TAD TOO LARGE FOR ME.
!!!
PLIP
BEA'S DOWN FOR A NAP!
I-I THINK I MAY CRY...
HNGH... WHYYY?
WHY, OH WHY IS ALL MY EFFORT FOR NAUGHT?

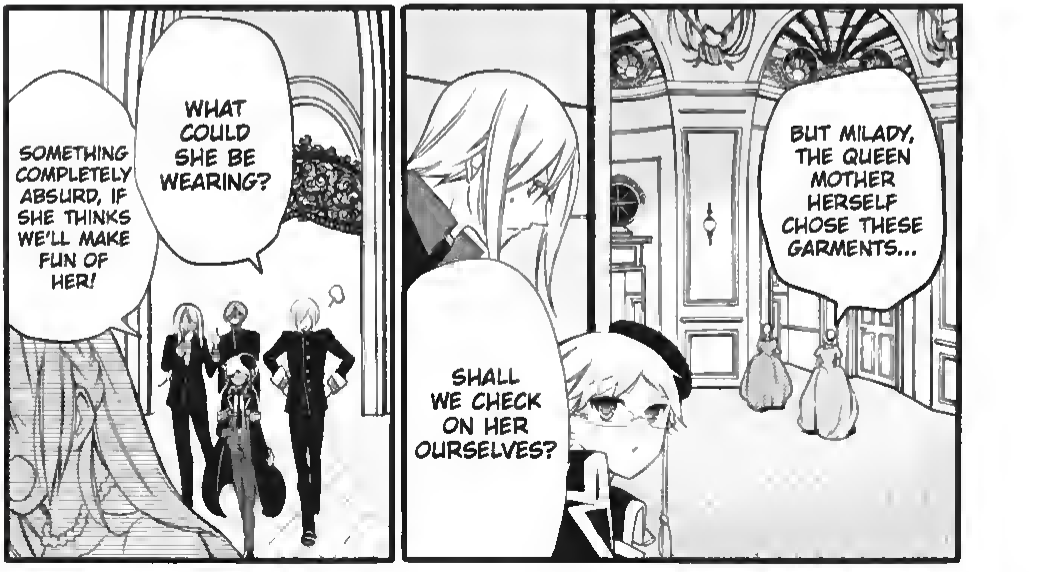
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
?
?
...WHAT'S THIS?
I'M NOT CRYING YET.
FSSHH
HUH!!?
WH-WHERE DID THIS COME FROM!?

LET US TAKE REFUGE BENEATH THAT TREE.
SOAKED
ぐしょ…
...WE CANNOT CONTINUE OUR PICNIC IN THIS STATE, NOW CAN WE?
AH-CHOO!
SO LONG AS IT IS BUT A SUDDEN SHOWER, IT SHOULD CLEAR UP SOON ENOUGH.
LET US WAIT FOR THE CARRIAGE TO COME 'ROUND FOR US.
POOR THINGS... I HOPE NO ONE CATCHES COLD.
AH-CHOO!
ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT?
.....

I NEVER WOULD HAVE ASKED HIM TO PICNIC WITH ME IF I'D KNOWN EVERYTHING WOULD GO WRONG.
.....
GOOD HEAVENS, YOU'RE SOAKED TO THE BONE! HURRY, MY DARLINGS, YOU MUST CHANGE OUT OF THOSE WET CLOTHES.
AH-CHOO!
RIGHT AWAY.
BEATRIX, DEAR, I INSIST THAT YOU CHANGE INTO SOMETHING DRY BEFORE YOU GO HOME.
THANK YOU, GREAT AUNTIE.


LADY BEATRIX SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY NOW.
WE FINISHED CHANGING AGES AGO!

NO, I CAN'T GO OUT THERE!
KAI CAN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS! THE BOYS WILL ALL LAUGH AT ME!


BUT MILADY, THE QUEEN MOTHER HERSELF CHOSE THESE GARMENTS...
SHALL WE CHECK ON HER OURSELVES?
WHAT COULD SHE BE WEARING?
SOMETHING COMPLETELY ABSURD, IF SHE THINKS WE'LL MAKE FUN OF HER!

OOOH!
BEA, YOU'RE TOOOO CUUUTE!
YOU SHOULD DRESS LIKE THAT AAALL THE TIME!
YOU LOOK MORE ADULT THAN USUAL. I LIKE IT.
HMPH. IT'S NOT ABSURD AT ALL!
WHAT A LETDOWN
Y-YOU MUST BE JOKING!
I'M SURE I LOOK UTTERLY RIDICULOUS IN ALL OF THESE FRILLS. THAT'S WHY I NEVER WEAR DRESSES HERE!

YOUR LADYSHIP HAS KNOWN THE PRINCES FOR MANY YEARS.
SURELY YOU MUST KNOW...
LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE!
AWW! THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
.....
I DO NOT DETECT ANY DISHONESTY IN THEIR WORDS.
HMPH.
WH...?
...WHO WOULD NOT THINK TO SPARE A WOMAN'S FEELINGS WITH FALSE FLATTERY.
...THAT THEY ARE ALL STILL INSENSITIVE CHILDREN...
TAP
.....
TELL ME, MASTER! IS THAT WHERE I AM LACKING, MASTER?
GEEZ. WHEN I'M AFTER A GIRL, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
I AM NOT A CHILD!
FUME

NOD
...MM.
BADUM
BADUM
I-I'LL BE OFF, THEN...
WH-WHAT DOES KAI MAKE OF IT?
BADUM
.....
TAP
TAP
TAKE CARE ON THE ROAD HOME.
BUH-BYYYE!
TMP
BEATRIX.
I KNEW IT! IT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT. OR DOES HE CARE SO LITTLE ABOUT ME THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...?
KAI DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT THE DRESS!

FLUTTER
HAD FUN TODAY... A TOKEN OF MY THANKS...
MADE IT WITH FLOWERS THAT BEST SUIT YOU.

PRETTY...
PERFECT WITH YOUR DRESS...

.....
...AH... I-I...
UM, THANK YOU.
I-I HAD FUN TODAY TOO!
LET'S DO THIS AGAIN, KAI! YOU TOO, BOYS!

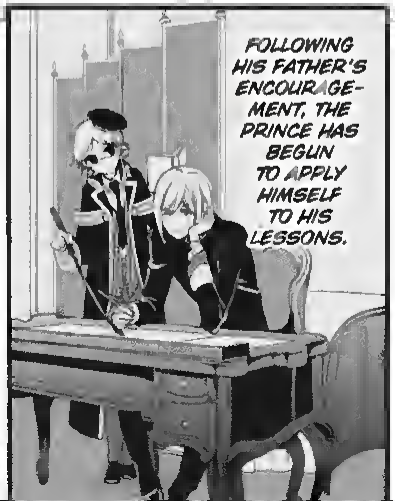
SEE YOU AGAIN, PROFESSOR!
MAYBE I'LL START WEARING DRESSES WHEN I VISIT...
KLAK
KLAK
WE DIDN'T JUMP STRAIGHT TO BEING LOVEBIRDS...
... BUT ...
...THAT DAY WILL COME, I'M SURE...

ずるっ
ZLRP
SHIVER SHIVER
カタカタ
ZLRRRP
ズルルル
MASTER!!!
SPLAT
I HAPPEN TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE COMMON COLD.
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP AWAY SO AS NOT TO CATCH IT...
ZLRP
HOO BOY.
ARE YOU IN ANY CONDITION TO WORRY ABOUT US?
WHEN YOU LOOK THE LEAST CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR OWN HEALTH...
AND SO, PROFESSOR HEINE'S DAY OFF ENDED WITH NO HOPE FOR SERENITY.

TODAY, I WILL BE RETURNING PRINCE LEONHARD'S GRADED QUIZZES.

CREAK

WILL HE BE HAPPY WITH HIS RESULTS?
HOW WILL HE REACT?


FOLLOWING HIS FATHER'S ENCOURAGE-MENT, THE PRINCE HAS BEGUN TO APPLY HIMSELF TO HIS LESSONS.

Chapter 14
A Reason to Study

BOOM
Leonhard
15
Leonhard
7
Leonhard
10
8

MM. YES, NATURALLY, HE WOULD REACT WITH SHOCK.

I- IMPOSSIBLE... I WAS PRACTICALLY CHAINED TO MY DESK...
I WAS CONVINCED I WAS MAKING PROGRESS ...
ONE FIFTY POINT
AND ONE CERTAINLY CANNOT SAY THAT HIS SKILLS HAVE DECREASED.
THE CONTENT WAS MORE CHALLENGING THAN THAT OF THE INITIAL APTITUDE TEST.
I REGRET TO SAY THAT IS NOT THE CASE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
TRYING TO PLAY A PRANK ON ME, EH?
AHA! YOU'VE HIDDEN MY REAL QUIZZES, HAVEN'T YOU!?
ADDING ANOTHER DIGIT NOW CHANGES NOTHING, YOUR HIGHNESS.
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
...Y-YOU FORGOT TO WRITE... THE SECOND DIGIT...
70
IF...IF I HEAT THEM, THE INVISIBLE INK WILL SHOW UP, REVEALING MY TRUE GRADES...
SIZZLE
GIVE IT UP, YOUR HIGH-NESS.

TH-THESE ARE REAL...?
SIMPLY REVIEW THE PARTS YOU COULD NOT ANSWER CORRECTLY.
FWOO
YOUR GRADES HAVE INDEED IMPROVED SINCE YOUR SCORE OF ONE ON THE FIRST TEST.
MOREOVER, YOU HAVE LEARNED THE BASICS OF THE BASICS. FOR THE MOST PART.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN DO SIMPLE SUMS... I CAN WRITE...
I'VE MASTERED THE BASICS.
I'VE MASTERED THE BASICS! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH FOR YOU!?
WHAP
BLAMING THE VICTIM...!?

SCIENCE? ALL THINGS YOU DON'T PARTICULARLY NEED TO KNOW.
HISTORY? ALL OVER AND DONE WITH ANYWAY.
IN LANGUAGE ARTS, BEING ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

THAT IS...HOW SHALL I SAY...?
EVEN IN ARITHMETIC, SO LONG AS YOU CAN ADD AND SUBTRACT, YOUR DAILY LIFE WILL BE NONE THE WORSE FOR NOT KNOWING MORE.

BOOM
WHY, I MADE IT THIS LONG WITHOUT KNOWING ANY SUMS AT ALL!
THAT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT.

NOW, FOR TODAY'S LESSON, WE SHALL REVIEW THOSE QUIZZES. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
KUH...
GAH!
POOR GRADES AFTER ALL OF YOUR EFFORT...I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE IN DENIAL.
HOWEVER, YOU NEED NOT THROW A TANTRUM.
GRIT
HOW AM I TO KEEP TRYING WHEN THIS IS ALL SO POINTLESS...?
DASH
AH.
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE ME STUDY AGAIN!
WAIT, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

ZOOM
—TOO FAST!!
GOOD-NESS GRA-CIOUS.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HE HAS GOTTEN AWAY FROM ME.
DID FOCUSING ON THE SCORES ALONE HURT HIS MOTIVATION?
HMM. I LOST SIGHT OF HIM COMPLETELY THIS TIME.
I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL LEAVE THE PALACE ALONE, AT LEAST.
ZOOM

TEACH!
BUMP
PRINCE LICHT.
HEH HEH HEH!
WHATCHA DOING STROLLING AROUND HERE?
OH, I JUST SAW LEONIE RUN PAST, FAST AS THE WIND...
I'VE GOT IT! LEONIE TOOK OFF 'COS HE GOT A BAD GRADE!
PRINCE LICHT IS A SHARP ONE INDEED...
...IN WHICH DIRECTION DID PRINCE LEONHARD GO, PRAY TELL?

...OR NOT TO TEEELL...?
TO TEEELL...
ACK! WAIT!
I'M JUST KIDDING AROUND! SHEESH!
STRUT
STRUT
STRUT
STRUT
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I AM A BUSY MAN.
TSK.
HONEST, TEACH, YOU DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES WITH ME, DO YOU...?
YOU'RE "TSK"ING ME?

SOMETIMES, IT'S BETTER TO LET HIM COME TO YOU!
SOUND REASONING...
BUT SURELY EVEN PRINCE LEONHARD...
...WOULD NOT FALL FOR SUCH A SIMPLE TRAP.
INSTEAD OF CHASING AFTER HIM LIKE BEFORE...
...YOU SHOULD AMBUSH HIM WHEN LUNCH COMES AROUND.
HE'LL SHOW UP ONCE HE GETS HUNGRY, SEE?
NO, NO, NO! I DON'T WANNA STUDY!
I'M NOT HIDING ANY-THING!
I SWEAR!
1+1 IS... 11!!
THE MANY PREVIOUS CASES OF HIS SIMPLICITY
.....

SNEAK

PERFECT. NO HEINE.
.....
WHOOSH
NOW, THEN...
I JUST NEED TO SNEAK BACK TO MY ROOM, AND...
CLATTER
SO GOOOOD...
MMF!
MNCH!

LOOM
NOW THAT YOU HAVE FILLED YOUR STOM-ACH...
...IT IS TIME YOU FILLED YOUR HEAD WITH A FULL COURSE OF LESSONS...
...PRINCE LEONHARD.

I AM GRATEFUL THAT YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP.
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON TRYING TO OUTWIT ME, I WOULD HOPE FOR MORE OF A CHALLENGE...
CONFOUND YOU! ARE YOU LISTENING!?
FLAIL
FLAIL
LET GO!
UN-HAND ME!!
KEEP AT IT, LEONIE!
YOU WOULD SKIP MASTER'S LESSONS? OUTRAGEOUS!
LEONHARD... YOU CAN DO IT...
CLENCH
GOOD LUCK!
YES, YES. I'LL HEAR YOUR GRIEVANCES IN YOUR QUARTERS.
NOOO! BAH, YOU THINK IT'S ACCEPTABLE FOR YOU TO DRAG A PRINCE AROUND!? KNOW YOUR PLACE!
DRAG
DRAG
COME. LET US CONTINUE YOUR LESSONS FOR THE DAY.
MMM?

NOW, OPEN YOUR TEXTBOOK.
FWIP
HMPH.
YOU PROMISED YOUR FATHER THAT YOU WOULD KEEP UP WITH YOUR STUDIES, DID YOU NOT?
WHERE HAS THAT BOUT OF INSPIRATION GONE?
.....
W-WELL, I...
.....

I STILL DETEST STUDYING.
FLIP
I ONLY MADE THAT PROMISE BECAUSE OF WHAT FATHER SAID.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I STUDIED PROPERLY, HE MIGHT PRAISE ME...
WHY DO I NEED LESSONS IN THE FIRST PLACE!?
I'M NOT GOING TO STUDY WITHOUT GOOD REASON!
FLINCH
...!?
.....

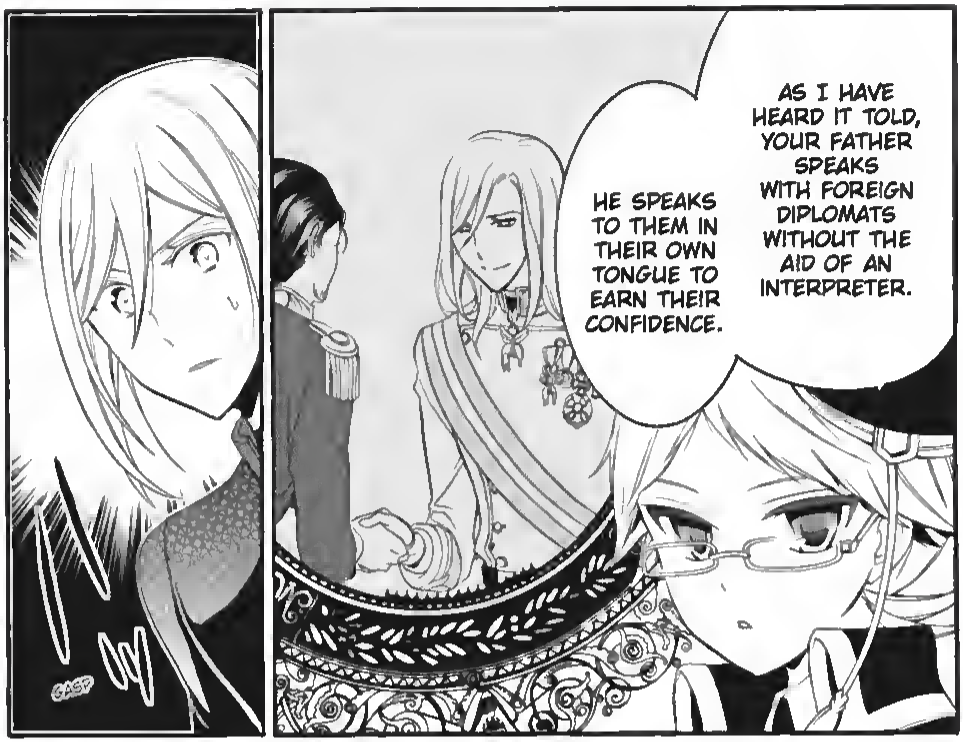
...LET ME ANSWER YOU, THEN.
CLATTER
YOU STUDY BECAUSE THAT IS YOUR JOB AS A CHILD.
WHEN YOUR ELDERS TELL YOU TO STUDY, YOU STUDY.
IT IS ALL FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

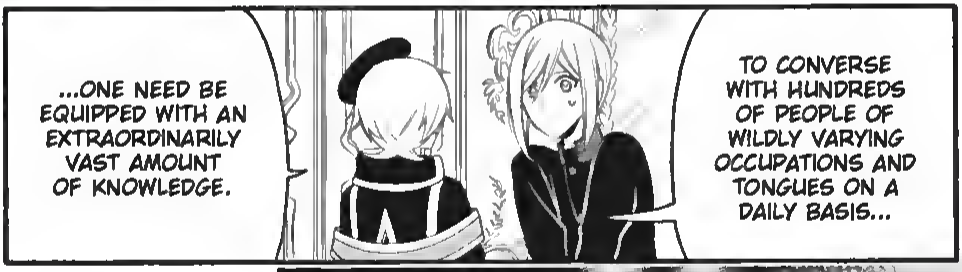
CHILDREN SHOULD DO AS THEY ARE TOLD.
PRINCE LEONHARD, I AM DOING ALL OF THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
NOW, DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND STUDY!
—KH!

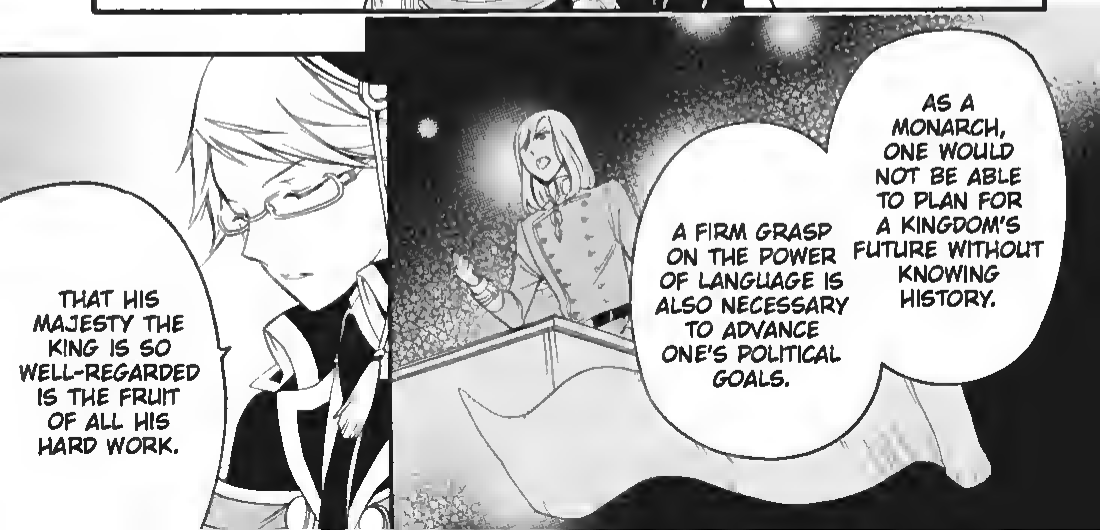
...OR...
...THAT WOULD BE THE SIMPLEST ANSWER TO OFFER.
SWISH
HOWEVER, TO BE QUITE FRANK...
...I KNOW NO RESPONSE THAT IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT CORRECT.
...HUH?
I MYSELF DID NOT STUDY BECAUSE I ENJOYED IT.

?
...WELL, PERHAPS...
...EACH INDIVIDUAL POSSESSES HIS OWN REASON TO STUDY.
IT WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE...
...I COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT LEARNING ALL THAT I COULD.
PRINCE LEONHARD, DO YOU HAVE A DREAM?
WH—
WHY, TO BE KING, OF COURSE!
HIS HEART IS SET ON BECOMING KING.
A KING MUST POSSESS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE IN MANY AREAS.
I BELIEVE THAT SHOULD GIVE PURPOSE TO YOUR STUDIES.

OH? IS YOUR FATHER A FOOL WHO NEVER STUDIED?
HMPH.
B-BUT IT IS NOT AS THOUGH ONE BECOMES KING BECAUSE HE STUDIES HARD...
MUTTER
MUTTER
HOW DARE YOU INSULT FATHER!?
MY FATHER IS A KING WITH PERFECT MARKS!
HE IS HEROIC AND DECISIVE!
HE MAY BE A BIT QUICK TO TEAR UP WHEN HE SEES US, BUT, BUT...
...THE PEOPLE ALL RESPECT HIM!
FOR-EIGNERS TOO!
QUITE RIGHT.


GASP
AS I HAVE HEARD IT TOLD, YOUR FATHER SPEAKS WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITHOUT THE AID OF AN INTERPRETER.
HE SPEAKS TO THEM IN THEIR OWN TONGUE TO EARN THEIR CONFIDENCE.


...ONE NEED BE EQUIPPED WITH AN EXTRAORDINARILY VAST AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE.
TO CONVERSE WITH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OF WILDLY VARYING OCCUPATIONS AND TONGUES ON A DAILY BASIS...


AS A MONARCH, ONE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAN FOR A KINGDOM'S FUTURE WITHOUT KNOWING HISTORY.
A FIRM GRASP ON THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IS ALSO NECESSARY TO ADVANCE ONE'S POLITICAL GOALS.
THAT HIS MAJESTY THE KING IS SO WELL-REGARDED IS THE FRUIT OF ALL HIS HARD WORK.

WELL?
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE YOUR STUDIES TO BE POINT-LESS?
.....
I THINK THERE IS NO HARM IN STUDYING, AT THE VERY LEAST.
EVEN IF YOU SHOULD ULTIMATELY FAIL TO BECOME KING, IT WILL PROVE USEFUL IN OTHER ENDEAVORS.
.....
...B...
BUT...

IF I STILL CAN'T GET GOOD GRADES AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH ALL THAT...
I... DON'T THINK I CAN...
...
N-NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY...
...MY GRADES DON'T GET ANY BETTER...
...I BELIEVE I BROACHED THIS SUBJECT BEFORE.
ONE TAKES TESTS TO MAKE ONE AWARE OF WHAT ONE DOES *NOT* KNOW.
THIS TEST MERELY MEASURES YOUR CURRENT ACADEMIC ABILITIES.
ITS SCORE CERTAINLY DOES NOT DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE.
THE PURPOSE OF A TEST IS NOT TO RECEIVE A GRADE BUT TO REVIEW WHAT YOU DID NOT KNOW.
HEINE ...
TO PUT IT IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR HIGH-NESS...

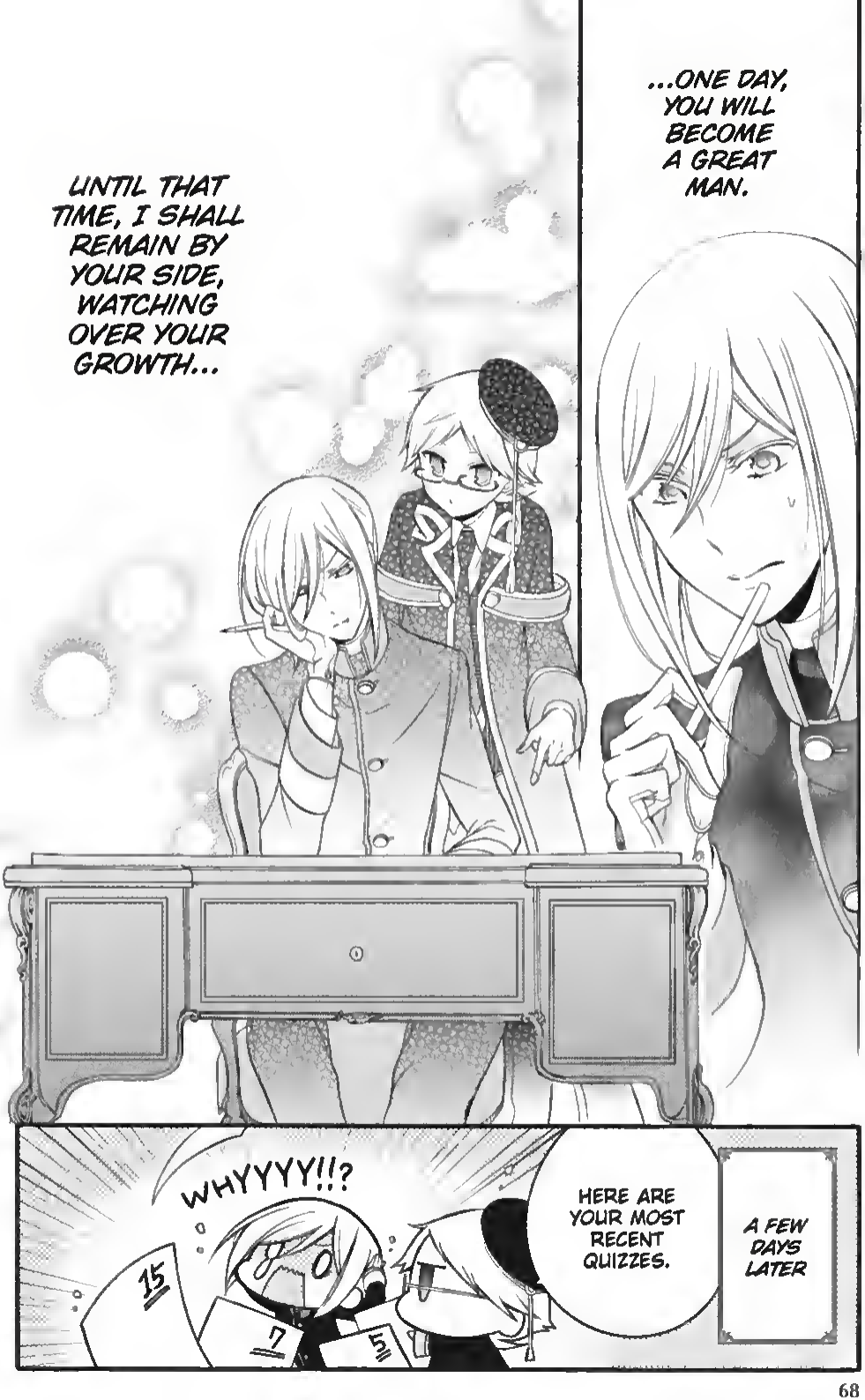
BOOM
YOU ARE SADLY MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL BECOME A MODEL STUDENT OVERNIGHT...
...AFTER PUTTING NO EFFORT INTO YOUR STUDIES FOR YEARS.

PUFF
...AND THINK YOURSELF A GENIUS.
OF ALL THE NERVE. YOU PUT IN A FEW DAYS' WORK...

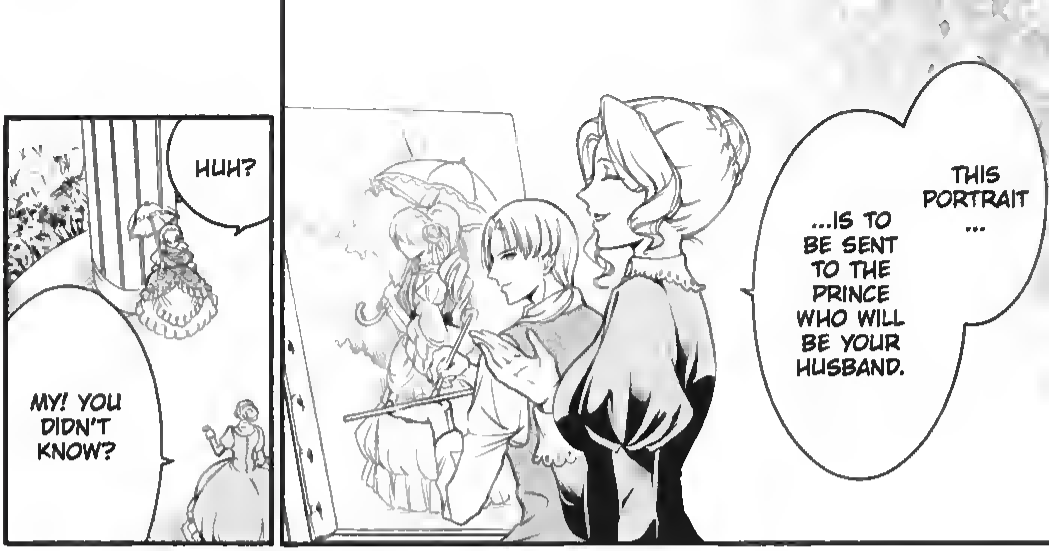
IF SOMEONE AS FOOLISH AS YOU ASCENDED TO THE THRONE...
...YOU WOULD RAISE THE IRE OF THE PEOPLE AND FIND YOURSELF AT THE GUILLOTINE.
NO...!
はっ
CLASP
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY TEACHER!!
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT!!
I MERELY EXPRESSED WHAT ANYONE COULD IMAGINE.
HMPH.
HONESTLY, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT BECOMING A KING REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF WORK.
YOU HAVE NOT STUDIED EVEN HALF AS MUCH AS PRINCE BRUNO, AND YOU SAY YOU'VE DONE YOUR VERY BEST?
QUIVER
QUIVER
JAB

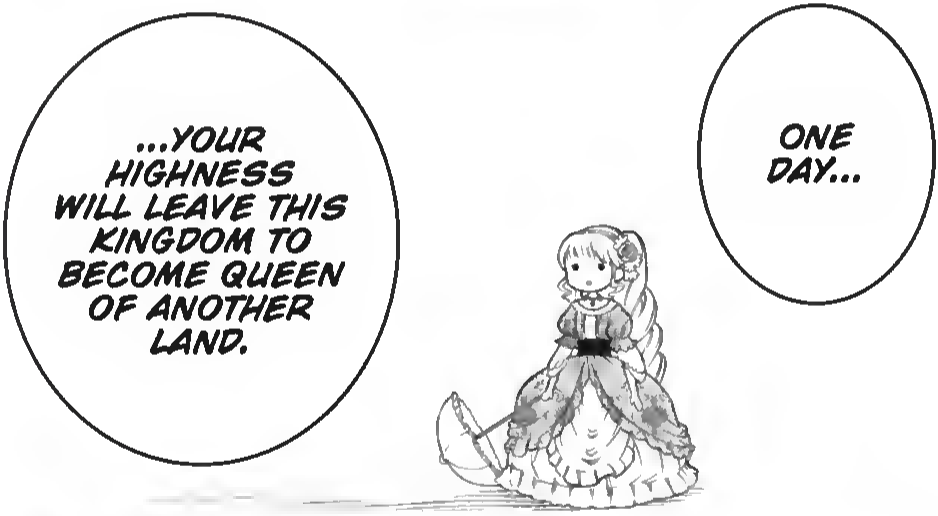
JUST YOU WATCH! OH, I'LL STUDY, ALL RIGHT!
I'LL STUDY LOTS AND LOTS!
I'LL GET SMARTER, GET GOOD GRADES...
...AND BECOME A KING SO GREAT THAT YOU'LL CHOKE ON THOSE WORDS!

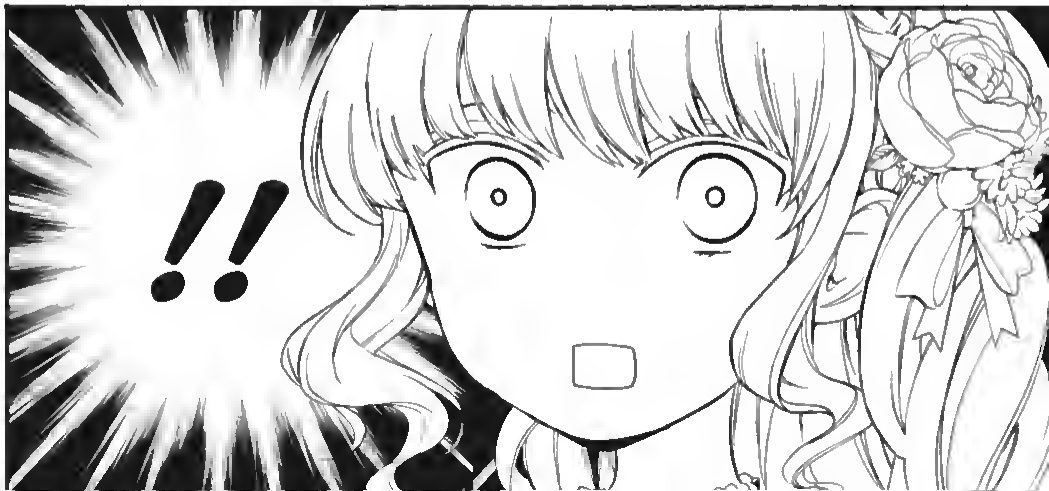
THAT'S THE TICKET.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING IT.
...I TRULY DO WISH TO SEE IT.
IF YOU CAN MAKE GOOD ON YOUR WORDS.
OOH, ONE OF THESE DAYS...!
THOUGH EACH STEP MAY BE SMALL...
...IF HE CONTINUES TO CLIMB, LITTLE BY LITTLE, UNFALTERING ...
...THE DAY THAT HE SURPASSES HIS FATHER IS SURE TO COME.


...ONE DAY, YOU WILL BECOME A GREAT MAN.
UNTIL THAT TIME, I SHALL REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE, WATCHING OVER YOUR GROWTH...
A FEW DAYS LATER
HERE ARE YOUR MOST RECENT QUIZZES.
WHYYYY!!?
15
7
5

OH PRINCESS, YOU LOOK PRECIOUS!
THIS WILL MAKE FOR A LOVELY PORTRAIT.
I CAN'T WAIT!
CAN I HAVE IT WHEN IT'S DONE?
WAVE
WAVE
THAT WON'T DO.


HUH?
MY! YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
THIS PORTRAIT ...
...IS TO BE SENT TO THE PRINCE WHO WILL BE YOUR HUSBAND.


ONE DAY...
...YOUR HIGHNESS WILL LEAVE THIS KINGDOM TO BECOME QUEEN OF ANOTHER LAND.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Chapter 15
The Little Princess

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
ADELE!
IT IS TIME FOR BREAKFAST. COME OUT NOW!
COME EAT WITH US, ADEEELE!
...TRUTH BE TOLD, WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE OURSELVES.
OH! TEACH!
GOOD MORNING, MASTER!
FWIP
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?

ADELE SEEMED TO BE IN LOW SPIRITS YESTERDAY.
TODAY, SHE REFUSES TO LEAVE HER QUARTERS.
YOUR FRIEND SHADOW SAYS HE'S COME TO PLAY WITH YOU!
WOOF
I BROUGHT YOUR BREAKFAST! DOESN'T IT SMELL GOOD?
SILENCE
ADELE...?
HNNN..
AARGH!
CLINGY...
HNNN...
...HOW WILL I SUR-VIVE!?
WH-WHAT DO I DO? IF I'M NEVER ABLE TO SEE MY ADORABLE ADELE'S FACE AGAIN...

I'M SORRY, LEO...
IF I GO OUTSIDE, I'LL HAVE TO POSE FOR MY PORTRAIT.
.....
SOB
A-ADELE...!
KACHAK
WHEN THE PORTRAIT IS DONE...
...I'LL BE SENT AWAY TO A FOREIGN LAND TO BE MARRIED!
WHAT!!?

WHY ARE NONE OF YOU SUR-PRISED !!?
IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE PRINCESS LIFE.
I SEE. SO THAT IS WHY SHE IS IN HIDING...
BUT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN UNTIL SHE IS GROWN.
TUG
IT IS HIGH TIME YOU LEFT YOUR ROOM AND CAME TO BREAKFAST.
YOU MUST EAT TO KEEP YOUR STRENGTH.
SNATCH
N-NO!
AH!
COME NOW!
CLASP

THEN...
...I'LL MARRY PRO-FESSOR HEINE!
EH?

SMILE
ニーニーっ
IF I'M HIS BRIDE, I CAN STAY TOO!
PROFESSOR HEINE WILL BE HERE FOREVER AND EVER.
RATTLE
RATTLE
COME NOW, ENOUGH NONSENSE...!
A-A-A-A-ADELE, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?

YOU ARE BUT THREE YEARS OLD. MASTER WOULD NEVER...

VERY WELL.
LET US MARRY.

WHAAAAAT!?
H-HEINE, YOU VILLAIN!
SWOON
WAAH! TEACH, ARE YOU FOR REAL!?
SQUEAL
THE GAP IN STATUS AND AGE—IT'S FORBIDDEN LOOOVE!
DO NOT ENCOURAGE THEM, LICHT!

LUNGE
GRIT
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE ROYAL TUTOR...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, HEINE...
AS ADELE'S ELDER BROTHER...
...I SWEAR I WILL TAKE HER BACK!
WHAM
NGYAH!

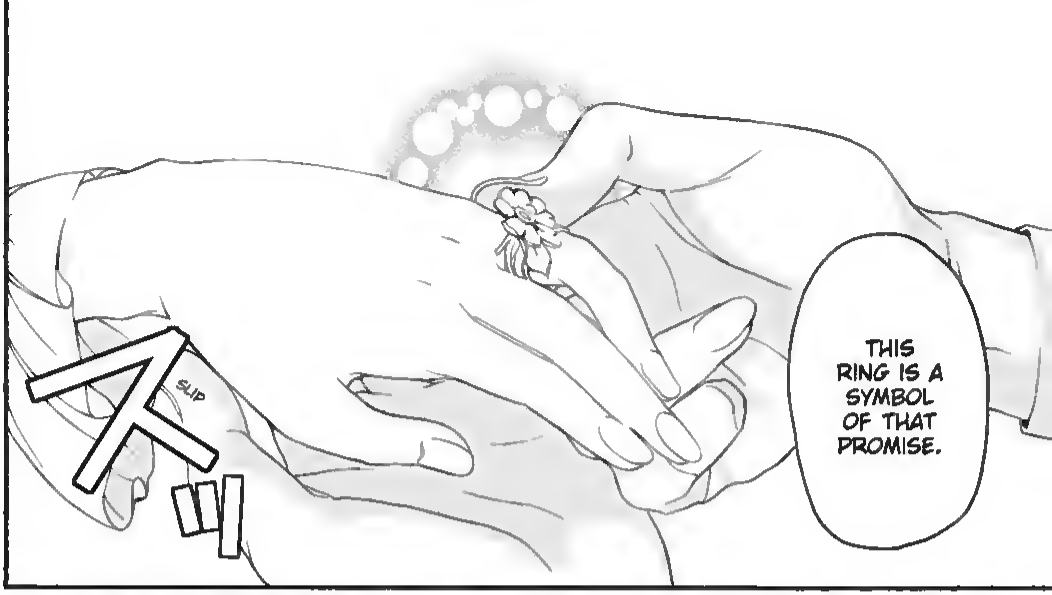
I BID YOU GOOD DAY...
...MY DEAR BROTHERS-IN-LAW.
TMP
FLUTTER
!
H-HOLD IT!
WHOOSH
TMP TMP
OH MAN... HE JUMPED FROM THE THIRD FLOOR AGAIN?
WOW...
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IMPRESSED!

...I CANNOT ACCEPT THIS EITHER...
I CANNOT LET ADELE DO THIS...
IF SHE WISHES TO MARRY MASTER, SHE MUST FIRST SURPASS ME, HIS APPRENTICE!!
OR I SHALL NOT ALLOW IT!!
THAT'S THE PART YOU CAN'T ACCEPT!?
SNAP
TO THE COURTYARD!
ON THE DOUBLE, LEONHARD!
SWOOSH
SNIFF
SNIFF
ADEEELE!
ADEEEEEEE...
.....
...WANNA TAG ALONG?
SEEMS LIKE FUN.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
NOD

AAADEE
KOFF! HACK!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LEONHARD!?
YOU'VE STRAINED YOUR THROAT!
ADEELE!!
MASTER!!
RUSTLE
OH, NOT SO.
YOU'RE GOOD AT HIDE-AND-SEEK!
WOW, PROFESSOR HEINE!
WHAM
TEENSY
...SINCE YOU AND I ARE TEENSY!
THERE ARE LOTS OF HIDING SPOTS...

Y-
YES...
QUITE...
RIGHT...
GLOOM
SHE MEANS NO HARM... NONE AT ALL... YET THAT WORSENS THE BLOW ALL THE MORE...
?
LET US REMOVE OURSELVES FURTHER FROM YOUR BROTHERS.
OKAY!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
.....

BE-TROTHED?
TECHNI-CALLY, WE WOULD BE BE-TROTHED.
YOUR HIGHNESS IS NOT YET OF AGE TO MARRY.
HEY, PROFESSOR ...
...THANKS FOR MARRYING ME.
PLUCK
A BETROTHAL IS A PROMISE TO MARRY.
?
MAY I SEE YOUR LEFT HAND, YOUR HIGHNESS?


SLIP
THIS RING IS A SYMBOL OF THAT PROMISE.

THANK GOODNESS.
I DON'T HAVE TO GO AWAY TO A FOREIGN LAND NOW.

PRINCE KAI WOULD BE MORE SKILLED.
WAH! IT'S CUTE!

.....

WHY DOES EVERYONE WANT TO SEND ME AWAY?
THEY MIGHT BE MEAN TO ME!
NEW PLACES ARE STRANGE AND SCARY.

?
PERHAPS THAT IS TOO COMPLICATED FOR YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES.
MARRIAGE IS THE DUTY OF A PRINCESS.
IN ANY CASE, AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH ME, I SHALL PROTECT YOU.
I SHALL BE YOUR KNIGHT.
WHAP
!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
OKAY...

LURCH
YOU TWO... ADORABLE...
HULLO TO THE CUTE COUPLE!
MERCY ME! IT'S HOT OVER HERE!
POP
YOUR HIGH-NESSES...
OH, DON'T MIND US! DO GO ON!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO OBJECT.
WOOF!
SHADOW FOLLOWED ADELE'S SCENT FOR US.
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED NOTHING LESS...
YOU DID WELL TO TRACK US DOWN.
OH, IT WASN'T REALLY US.
YOU BETTER HIDE!
LEONIE AND BRUNIE ARE HEADING THIS WAY THOUGH.

HUSH, SHADOW!
!
BOW-WOW!
BOW-WOW!
AHA!
THERE THEY ARE! ADELE!
WHOOP-SIES...

SHOCK
HIDE
MOVE AWAY FROM THAT DEGENERATE, ADELE!
COME TO BROTHER!
WHY...?
WHY?
I TOLD YOU, THAT TEACHER IS A DEVIL!!
HIS EXPRESSION HARDLY EVER CHANGES, HE'S STRICT...
...AND HIS GLARE IS SCARY!
ANYWAY, HE'S SCARY!!
THAT LAST PART SEEMS RATHER BIASED.

BRUNO... LEO...
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AWAY?
BUT...BUT IF I DON'T MARRY PROFESSOR HEINE...
...I'LL BE SENT AWAY!
THERE IS NO POINT IN WORRYING OVER IT NOW.
AS I HAVE TRIED TO TELL YOU, THAT IS YEARS FROM NOW.
I DO NOT BELIEVE THE PRINCESS WISHES TO HEAR...
...SUCH A DIS-MISSIVE ANSWER
.....

...NO MATTER WHO THE POTENTIAL HUSBAND...
...I WILL BE OPPOSED TO ANY AND ALL MARRIAGE ARRANGE-MENTS.
...A PERTINENT POINT.
THEN ALLOW ME TO OFFER THE ANSWER AS HER BROTHER.
UNTIL I AM UTTERLY CERTAIN THAT I CAN LEAVE MY BELOVED SISTER IN HIS HANDS...

I CAN'T HAVE YOU BE MARRIED OFF TO JUST ANY OLD FELLOW EITHER.
HE HAS TO BE AT LEAST AS TRUSTWORTHY AS TEACH.
NO! SHE IS NOT THE RIGHT MATCH FOR A GENIUS ON THE LEVEL OF MASTER!
IT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
AWW, YOU THINK?
...
...I THINK ...
...YOU SHOULD BE WITH WHOMEVER YOU WANT TO BE WITH.
...BROTHER...

YOU DON'T REMEMBER THIS, BUT...
...YEARS AGO...
...WHEN YOU WERE BORN...
...WE WERE OVERJOYED.
FATHER AND MOTHER TOO.
THEY LOOKED SO HAPPY TO MEET THEIR FIRST DAUGHTER.

WE HAD A PRECIOUS, ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER...
ALL OF US SIBLINGS, INCLUDING OUR ELDEST BROTHER... ... CELEBRATED TOGETHER.
SO...
...WE DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU EITHER.
BUT...
...NO MATTER HOW FAR APART WE MUST BE, WE WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU.

YOUR BROTHERS...
...WOULD GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH FOR YOU.
WE'LL COME RUNNING FOR YOU, JUST LIKE THIS TIME!
SO...
...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

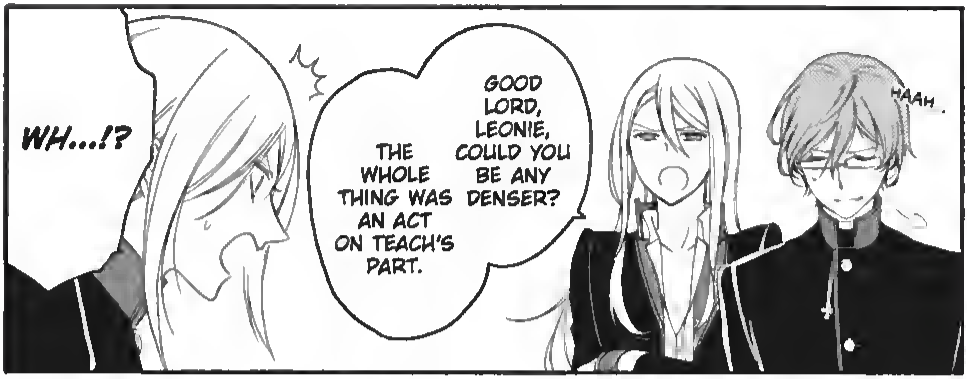
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
...SUDDENLY BEING TOLD THAT YOU'D BE TAKEN AWAY FROM US.
...I KNOW IT WAS SCARY...
YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO US.

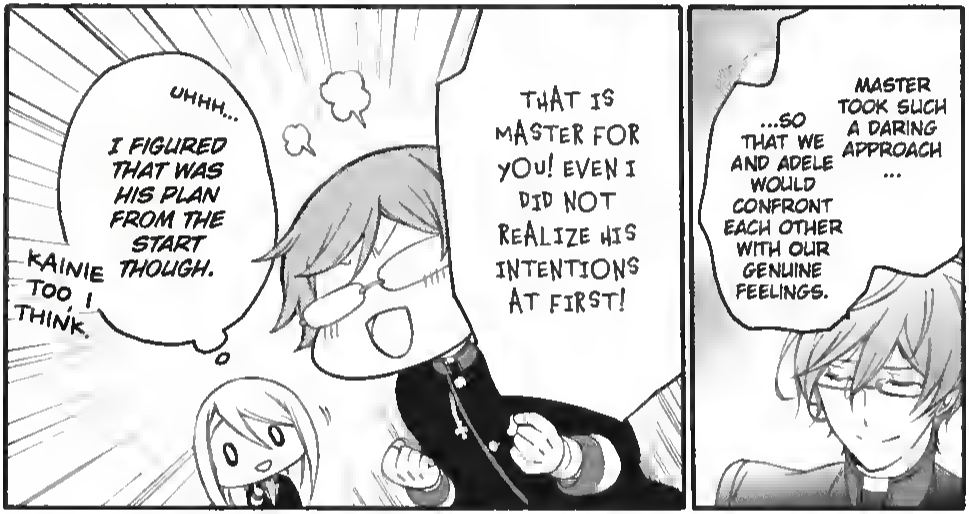
BROTHERS!
ADELE...

...LET US BREAK OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT.
...PRINCESS ADELE...
...YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND WILL HAVE TO BE MADE OF STERNER STUFF.
WITH SUCH MEDDLESOME BROTHERS PROTECTING YOU...
PAT
...ONLY TEMPO-RARILY.
...DISMISSIVE ANSWERS CALLED ME TO KNIGHTHOOD...
MORE-OVER...

YOUR HIGHNESS HAS FOUR TRUE KNIGHTS AT HER SERVICE.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT NOW, YES?
YES...!

ADELE...
SHE'S STOPPED HIDING IN HER ROOM.
WHEW...
GLAD SHE FEELS BETTER...
I WON'T STAND FOR IT, YOU KNOW.
I'LL NEVER LET YOU HAVE ADELE!
GLARE
HMPH!
?
AH...YES, YES. VERY WELL.
HMPH.
WH-WHY ARE YOU LETTING IT DROP SO EASILY!?
GRRR!


WH...!?
THE WHOLE THING WAS AN ACT ON TEACH'S PART.
GOOD LORD, LEONIE, COULD YOU BE ANY DENSER?
HAAH.


UHHH...
I FIGURED THAT WAS HIS PLAN FROM THE START THOUGH.
KAINIE TOO I THINK.
THAT IS MASTER FOR YOU! EVEN I DID NOT REALIZE HIS INTENTIONS AT FIRST!
MASTER TOOK SUCH A DARING APPROACH ...
...SO THAT WE AND ADELE WOULD CONFRONT EACH OTHER WITH OUR GENUINE FEELINGS.

COME NOW. I MERELY WHISKED THE PRINCESS OUTSIDE.
IT WAS YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES WHO SET HER HEART AT EASE.

ONE DAY, THE PRINCESS SHALL COME TO UNDERSTAND HER POSITION.
SHE MAY BE HAPPY WITH THE PRINCE SHE IS TO WED. NO ONE CAN KNOW THE FUTURE.
M-MASTER PRAISED ME...
H-HMPH!
WHY, SHE MAY EVEN FIND TRUE LOVE...
PRINCESS... I AM VERY SORRY FOR STARTLING YOU THE OTHER DAY.
IT IS A DELICATE MATTER. I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT.
...UH-UH. IT'S OKAY.

TO MY BROTH-ERS AND...
?
I FOUND SOME-ONE...
...I WANT TO SHOW THE PORTRAIT TO!
...MY SECRET KNIGHT!

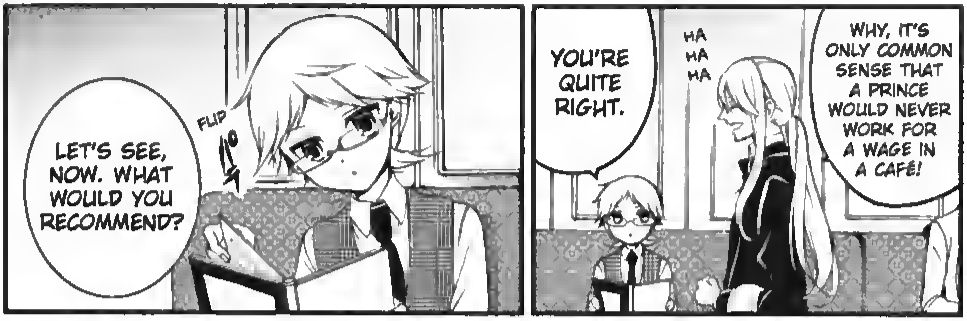
CHEERY
ぽん
CHEERY
ぽん
WHEN ON THE HUNT FOR A BOOK, ONE CANNOT FARE BETTER THAN TO GO ABOUT TOWN.
1×1=2
...AND FOR THE PRINCES, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO SUIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.
FOR PRINCESS ADELE, I PROCURED A BOOK ABOUT THE COUNTRY WHERE HER FIANCÉ RESIDES...
Kaffee haus
Mitter Meyer
A STARTLING LACK OF AMBITION IN THAT ONE...
GALLIVANTING ABOUT AS ALWAYS, I'M SURE.
I DO BELIEVE THAT PRINCE LICHT IS ALSO OUT ON THE TOWN.

CAFÉ MITTER MEYER...
A COZY CAFÉ, TUCKED AWAY IN AN ALLEY SUCH AS THIS!
KREAK
PERHAPS I SHALL REST MY FEET A MOMENT.
GOOD DAY.

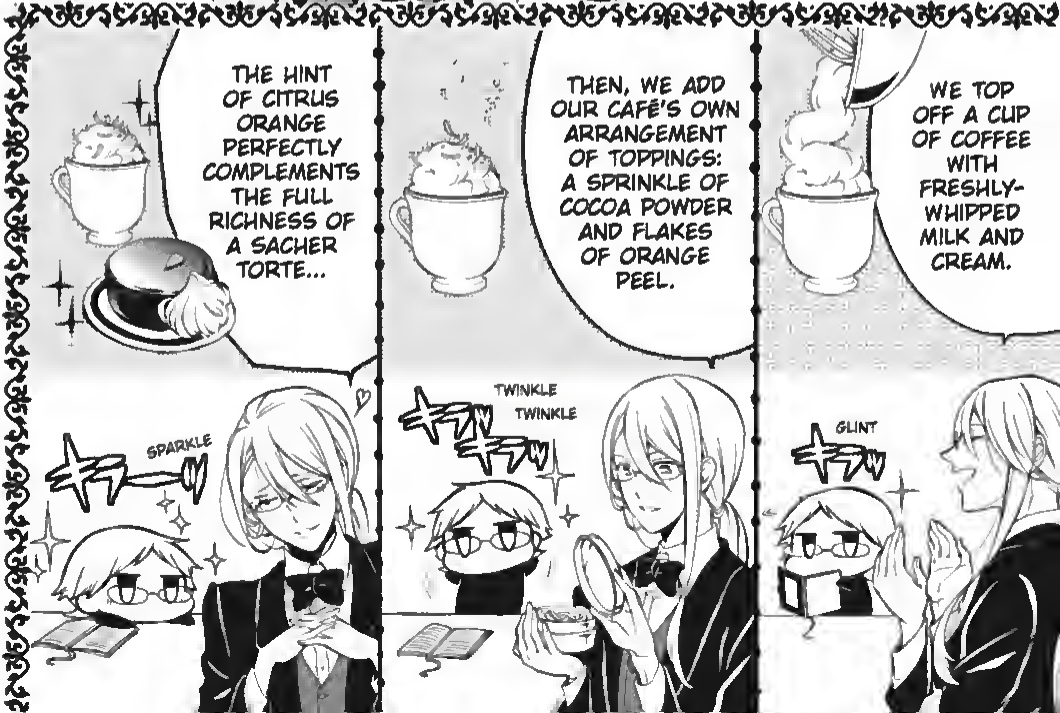
PRINCE LICHT...?

Chapter 16
At Café Mitter-Meyer

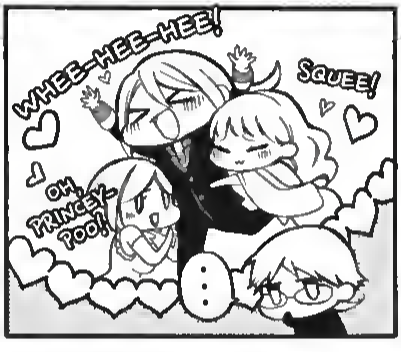
SWISH
HERE YOU ARE, SIR. OUR MENU.
IT IS A REGULAR OCCURRENCE, SIR.
ALTHOUGH, I MUST ADMIT I FIND IT STAGGERING THAT A COMMONER SUCH AS MYSELF WOULD BE SO OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A PRINCE!
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR THE MIX-UP.
OH, THINK NOTHING OF IT, SIR.


LET'S SEE, NOW. WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?
FLIP
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.
HA HA HA
WHY, IT'S ONLY COMMON SENSE THAT A PRINCE WOULD NEVER WORK FOR A WAGE IN A CAFÉ!

PERSONALLY, I ENJOY THE KAPUZINER.
Einspänner
DOUBLE ESPRESSO + WHIPPED CREAM + SUGAR
OUR MOST POPULAR DRINK IS THE EINSPÄNNER, SIR.


THE HINT OF CITRUS ORANGE PERFECTLY COMPLEMENTS THE FULL RICHNESS OF A SACHER TORTE...
SPARKLE
THEN, WE ADD OUR CAFÉ'S OWN ARRANGEMENT OF TOPPINGS: A SPRINKLE OF COCOA POWDER AND FLAKES OF ORANGE PEEL.
TWINKLE TWINKLE
WE TOP OFF A CUP OF COFFEE WITH FRESHLY-WHIPPED MILK AND CREAM.
GLINT

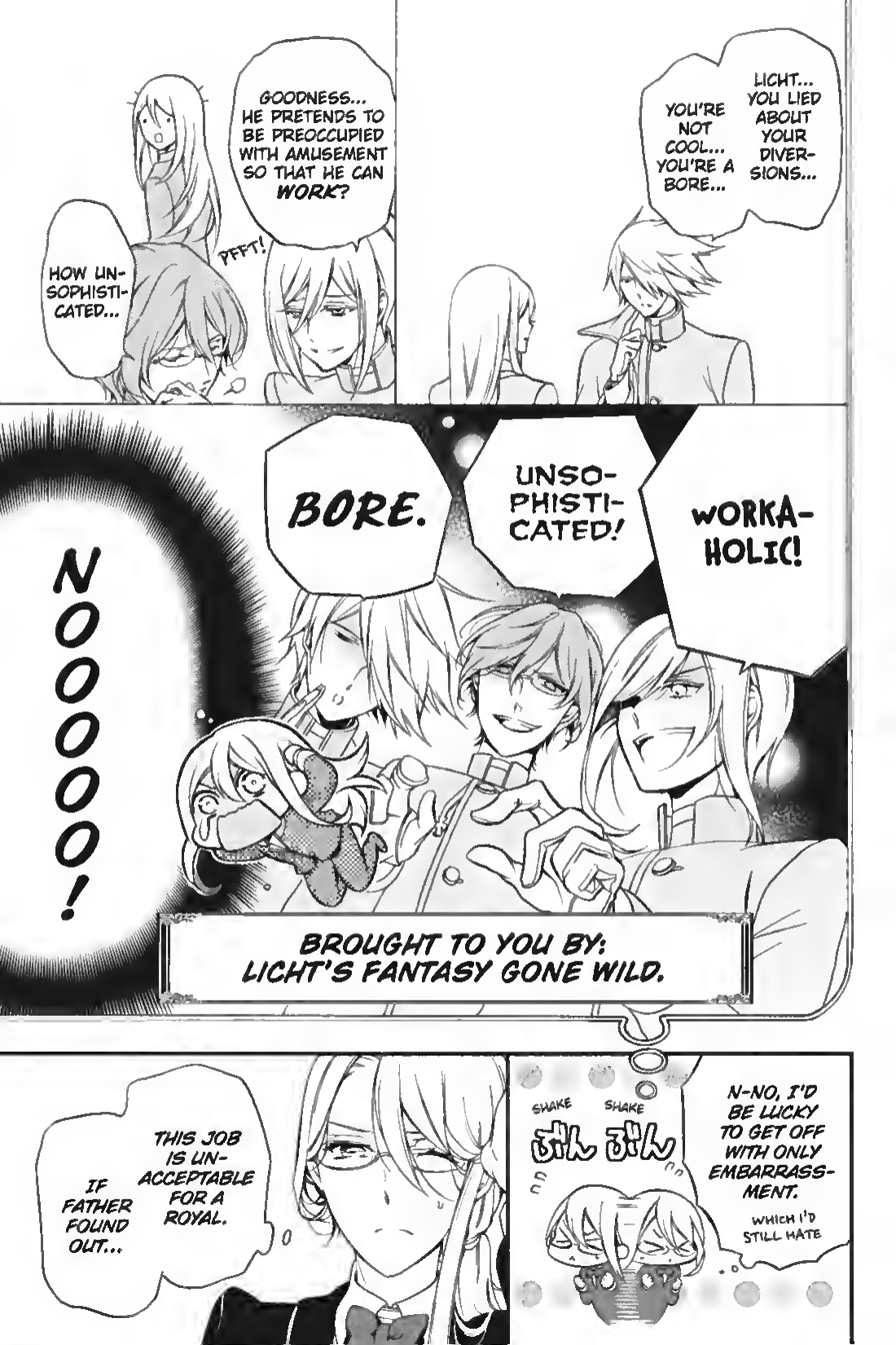
I WILL HAVE A KAPUZINER AND A SACHER TORTE, THANK YOU.
DROOL
EXCELLENT, SIR.


WHEE-HEE-HEE!
SQUEE!
OH, PRINCEY POO!

HE HAS A WAY WITH WORDS, THE SAME AS PRINCE LICHT.
NORMALLY, I HAVE NO SWEET TOOTH, YET STILL, HIS RECOMMEN-DATION CAPTIVATED ME.

THEY ARE ALIKE AND YET WORLDS APART.
A DILIGENT YOUNG MAN, AND WELL-VERSED IN HIS TRADE...

WHY!?
WHY IS TEACH HERE, OF ALL PLACES!?
BADUM
BADUM
I-I MANAGED TO FOOL HIM FOR NOW...I THINK?
THIS ONE IS FOR PRINCE LEONHARD..
FOR GOOD CHILDREN
THE CAFÉ IS NOWHERE NEAR THE PALACE.
I MEANT FOR THERE TO BE NO CHANCE OF RUNNING INTO ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME!
IF THEY FIND OUT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE SLY...


LICHT... YOU LIED ABOUT YOUR DIVERSIONS...
YOU'RE NOT COOL... YOU'RE A BORE...
GOODNESS... HE PRETENDS TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH AMUSEMENT SO THAT HE CAN WORK?
PFFT!
HOW UNSOPHISTICATED...
BORE.
UNSOPHISTICATED!
WORKAHOLIC!
NOOOOO!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY: LICHT'S FANTASY GONE WILD.
THIS JOB IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR A ROYAL.
IF FATHER FOUND OUT...
SHAKE SHAKE
ぶんぶん
N-NO, I'D BE LUCKY TO GET OFF WITH ONLY EMBARRASSMENT.
WHICH I'D STILL HATE

...NOT ONLY WOULD HE STRIP ME OF MY CLAIM TO THE THRONE...
...I WOULD BE DISOWNED AND GIVEN THE BOOT FROM THE PALACE DIRECTLY!
...BUT DESPITE IT ALL... I STILL...
.....
HAAH.
IT'LL BE FINE. I JUST WON'T LET TEACH REALIZE IT'S ME!

HIIIIII! ♡
I HAVE TO AVOID ACTING LIKE THE PRINCE LICHT HE KNOWS!
KREAK
BLUSH
I'LL GIVE LOOOOTS OF ATTENTION TO YOU BEAUTIES TODAY. ♡
AWW, REALLY !?
YOU'LL CHAT WITH ME, WON'T YOU? ♡
OH, RICHARD! I SIMPLY COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF AWAY WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE WORKING TODAY. ♡
HRK.
STAAARE

MAS-TER...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, RICH?
YOU'RE WORKING WITH MORE GUMPTION THAN USUAL.
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
DON'T ACT LIKE ME. DON'T ACT LIKE ME. DON'T ACT LIKE ME...
HUH?
COULD SOMEONE ELSE TAKE OVER HIS TABLE FOR ME?
S-SAY, THE LITTLE GENT WITH THE SPECTACLES SITTING IN THE CORNER...
POOR TEACH...
I AM A GROWN MAN!
HARRUMPH!
VENTURING OUT TO A CAFÉ BY HIS LONESOME? WHAT A BIG BOY HE IS!
FLUSH
ほの
FLUSH
ほの
OH MY STARS, HOW CHARMING! HE'S SITTING ALL ALONE IN THAT BIG BOOTH SEAT...

ONE WAITER OVERSEES THE CUSTOMERS WITHIN HIS SECTION...
...FROM THE ORDER TO THE CHECK. THIS IS PIVOTAL TO THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.
AHEM. I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
OH, COME ON!
A PROFESSIONAL WAITER MEMORIZES THE FACES AND ORDERS OF HIS CUSTOMERS INSTANTLY.
YOUR DRINKS, ONE SCHWARZER AND ONE FRANZISKANER. FOR DESSERT, ONE KAISER-SCHMARREN
...ONE KARDINAL-SCHNITTEN, AND ONE GERMKNODEL, JUST AS ORDERED.
SMOOTHLY
GOOD-NESS ME.
DOES SOMETHING SEEM STRANGE ABOUT RICH TO YOU TODAY?
HE'S BEEN STRANGE SINCE DAY ONE...
PSST
D-DON'T BE SO BLUNT.
WHEW
DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE STARTED CHANGING WAITERS WILLY-NILLY?
LOOM
GRIP
CH... CHAOS... RIGHT.
MEEP!

CLINK
YOUR ORDER, SIR.
WELL, MAYBE HE'LL LEAVE ONCE HE FINISHES EATING.
OOH...
I AM GLAD I LISTENED TO YOUR RECOMMEN-DATION.
THAT LOOKS DELIGHT-FUL.
MM.
STAB

FLIP
I'M SURE OF IT... SOMETHING'S... WRONG WITH HIM TODAY...
GETTING RATHER CONCERNED HERE
BWRK
TEACH, YOU BLASTED FOOL!
ROLL
ROLL
AAAAH!!! HE OPENED A BOOK!
HE COULD BE HERE FOR HOURS!
BLAST IT ALL! I MISSED!
HEH! MY TURN.
WELL, ALL I CAN DO IS KEEP AS FAR AWAY AS I CAN...
...AND TRY NOT TO STAND OUT.

WHAT?
...YOU JUST MOVED THAT BALL.
TNK
DON'T GO THROWING AROUND FALSE ACCUSATIONS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE LOSING.
HUNH?
ARE YOU TRYING TO CHEAT?
WE AGREED THAT WHOEVER LOSES WOULD GET THE CHECK TODAY.
SQUABBLE
SQUABBLE
THE DEVIL I DID! IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO WHERE IT WAS BEFORE, SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I SAW IT MESELF! YOU USED THE CUE STICK TO TAP THE BALL INTO A BETTER POSITION!
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF THAT I MOVED IT ON PURPOSE!?
WHAM
WHY, YOU... YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SCOUNDREL ...!

CLATTER
LOOK OUT!
TUMBLE
WHACK

PHEW
.....

WHEW. CLOSE CALL!
TINK
THERE WE ARE.
WHIRL

ARE YOU INJURED, FRÄULEIN?
N... NO...
TUG
I'M JUST PERFECT...
...S...
SORRY... Y-YOU WERE ALMOST HURT!
I-I'M DEEPLY SORRY ...
I LOST MY TEMPER OVER OUR BET...
THE SPACE BETWEEN THE WALL AND THE TABLE IS A TAD NARROW. I AM SURE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIRS. I WILL BRING THIS TO THE PROPRIETOR'S ATTENTION SO THERE'LL BE NO FURTHER MIX-UPS.
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF YOUR CHEAP TRICKS!
WHA...? YOU STILL WON'T ADMIT YOU WERE WRONG!?
HNN.
ALSO...

SWIP
HALI RUCK!
KLAK
KLAK
PLINK
WHACK

CLAP
PLUNK
SMILE
LET'S SAY...
...THAT I'VE WON TODAY'S MATCH, SHALL WE?

PLOD PLOD
とぼ
とぼ
PLEASE COME AGAIN.
S-SURE...
YOUR CHECKS, SIRS.
WHICH MEANS THE BET IS OFF!
...AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTING STRANGE TODAY. YOU DID US PROUD!
HEH HEH HEH! ♪

TH-THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
THE LADIES DON'T LIKE PREACHY MEN. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL SINGLE!
AWW! BUT YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY YOURSELF!
JUST MAKES YOU SEEM LIKE A SHOW-OFF.
BUT QUIT IT WITH THE BEHIND-THE-BACK TRICK SHOTS. TICKS ME OFF.
.....
YES, THE NORMAL WAY TO PLAY.
CERTAINLY, SIR.
MAY I HAVE THE CHECK, PLEASE?
OH, SIR, YOU FLATTER ME.
...YOU MADE SURE TO DO SO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAFÉ'S ATMOSPHERE.
NOT ONLY DID YOU DISPEL THE TROUBLE ...
.....
...WAS MOST IMPRES-SIVE.
YOUR HAN-DLING OF THE SITUA-TION EARLI-ER...

...WHEN I FIRST STARTED HERE...
...I WAS COMPLETELY HOPELESS.
I COULD NOT RECOGNIZE OUR CUSTOMERS NOR COULD I REMEMBER THE MENU.
I COULDN'T EVEN CARRY OUT DRINKS WITHOUT DROPPING THEM. I MADE BLUNDER AFTER BLUNDER.
I BEGGED AND PLEADED MY WAY INTO THIS JOB...
...SO I ONLY RECEIVE THE MINIMUM IN WAGES.
BUT DESPITE ALL MY CLUMSINESS, THE STAFF TAUGHT ME PATIENTLY.
THIS CAFÉ IS DEAR TO MY HEART.
...I SINCERELY MEAN THAT.

IT IS A PLEASANT ESTABLISH-MENT, TO BE SURE.
I WILL COME AGAIN.
PAT
.....
I BELIEVE IT.
MOST EXCELLENT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.
WHEW.
...THOUGH, I HOPE YOU NEVER COME BACK.
AH WELL. I THANK MY LUCKY STARS I MANAGED TO HIDE MY IDENTITY.
HMM?
WHAT'S THIS?
RSTL
RSTL
?

!!!
Dear Prince Licht,
See me in my quarters as soon as you return to the palace.
Heine
NO WAY...
HE... HE FOUND ME OUT...
HAAH...
.....
WHEN DID HE REALIZE IT? WHEN I WAS SURROUNDED BY GIRLS? WHEN I TOOK OFF MY GLASSES? OR ...?
DID HE KNOW IT WAS ME FROM THE START...?

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T TRUST ANY TEACHERS.
HE IS UNDER FATHER'S EMPLOY, AFTER ALL.
WILL HE TELL FATHER?
PROFESSOR HEINE DID SEEM DIFFERENT THOUGH.
I THINK... I ALMOST HOPED HE WOULD BE.
CLASP
CHECK, PLEASE.
OH. RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

I AM HERE TO ESCORT YOU HOME.
YOUR FATHER WISHES TO SEE YOU...
...PRINCE LICHT.

HEH HEH.
...YOU...

PRINCE LICHT...
WILL HE VISIT ME IN MY CHAMBERS AS INSTRUCTED?
UMMM, UMMM..
WITH HIS GOOD CHILDREN
IF VIKTOR FINDS OUT THAT HIS SON HAS BEEN WORKING IN TOWN, PRINCE LICHT WILL BE IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION.
WAIT,.
I'VE GOT IT!
FORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS NO ONE HAS NOTICED AS OF YET.
I'LL SPEAK WITH HIM PRIVATELY FIRST, AND THEN...

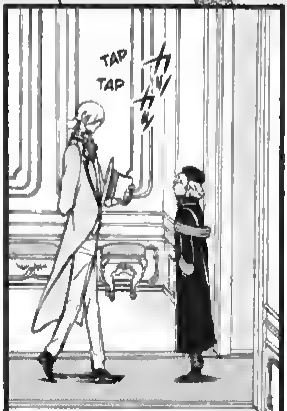
LUNGE
PRINCE LICHT...
...AND... WHO IS THAT FELLOW BEHIND HIM...?

SNEER
ニヤ
……

PRINCE LICHT!
HEAVEN HELP HIM IF THEY'VE FOUND OUT THAT HE'S BEEN WORKING SECRETLY IN TOWN!

Chapter 17

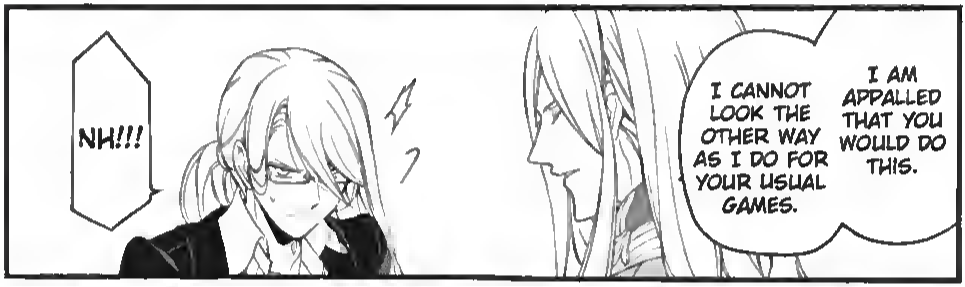
You Don't Understand



.....
TAP
TAP
BOW
GASP
YOUR MAJESTY. MAY I ENTER?
...THE PRINCE COMES FIRST.
KACHAK
HEINE?
LET HIM IN.

KREAK
キィ
.....
T-
TEACHER
...
YOU KNEW OF THIS, HEINE?
THAT LICHT HAD BEEN WORKING IN TOWN?
.....

I INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE MATTER TODAY.
...I SEE. HOWEVER, THE COUNT HAS ALREADY TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
"THE COUNT"...


I AM APPALLED THAT YOU WOULD DO THIS.
I CANNOT LOOK THE OTHER WAY AS I DO FOR YOUR USUAL GAMES.
NH!!!

IF I MAY, YOUR MAJESTY ...
THE PRINCE'S WORK WAS METICU-LOUS.
THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT A MATTER OF PLAY.

I BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCE'S OPINION IS WORTHY OF YOUR MAJESTY'S CONSIDER-ATION.
...HMM.
WHAT SAY YOU, LICHT?
.....

...I ADMIT THAT IT WAS A GAME AT FIRST.
THE GIRLS WERE ALWAYS SWOONING OVER GOOD-LOOKING WAITERS.
I TOLD MYSELF THAT I COULD DO ANYTHING THEY DID.
BUT WHEN I TRIED MY HAND AT IT, I MADE EVERY BLUNDER IN THE BOOK.
DESPITE THAT, THE STAFF WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TEACH ME.
AS I PICKED UP ON THE JOB, I FOUND MYSELF ENJOYING IT.
ALL THE TYPES OF COFFEE I HADN'T KNOWN EXISTED...THE OTHER THINGS I LEARNED...IT INTRIGUED ME MORE AND MORE.
I TREASURE THE TIME I SPEND WORKING AT THE CAFÉ.

I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS. I'LL NEVER DO IT.
.....
WHY NOT!?
I WANT TO DO IT! ISN'T THAT REASON ENOUGH!?
... WELL. I CERTAINLY CANNOT ACCEPT THIS.
YOUR MOTIVATION IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

THERE, YOU ARE GUARANTEED A MINIMUM OF SAFETY.
THE HALLS YOU NORMALLY FREQUENT ARE EXCLUSIVE TO ARISTOCRATS.
IF DANGER WERE TO BEFALL YOU IN A PUBLIC SPACE, I COULD NOT PROTECT YOU.
NAY, EVEN IF IT REMAINED A SECRET...
IF YOUR IDENTITY AS PRINCE WERE REVEALED ...
GRIP
LISTEN.
YOU MUST BE MORE COGNIZANT OF YOUR POSITION AS A PRINCE.
.....

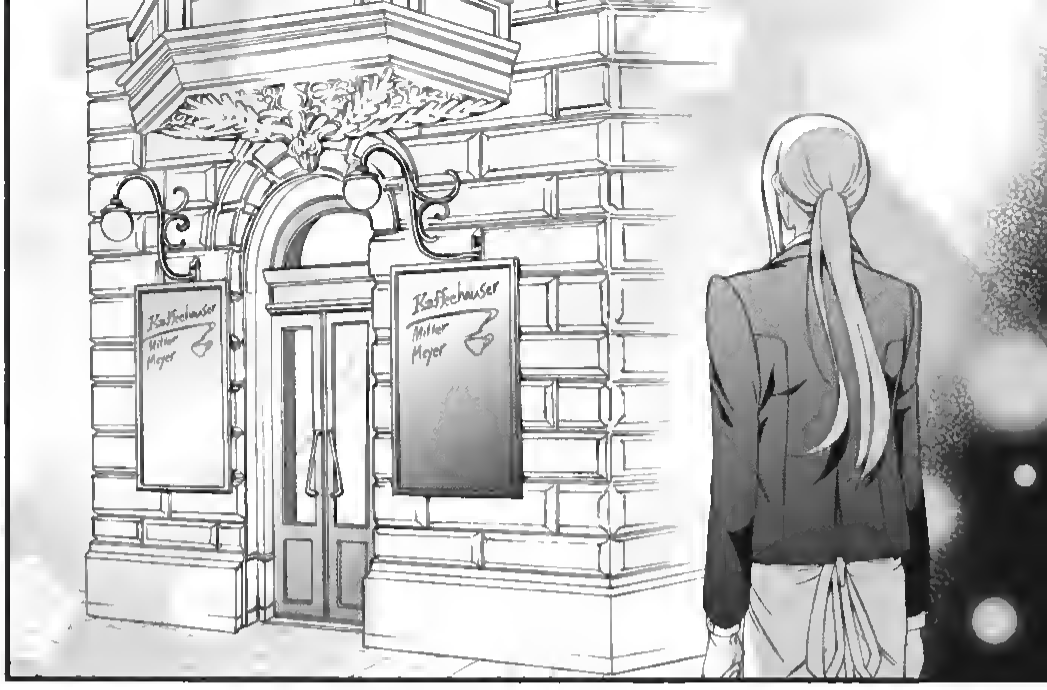
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, IT WOULD DISRUPT THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.
—!
.....
AH-HA-HA... OF COURSE... THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.

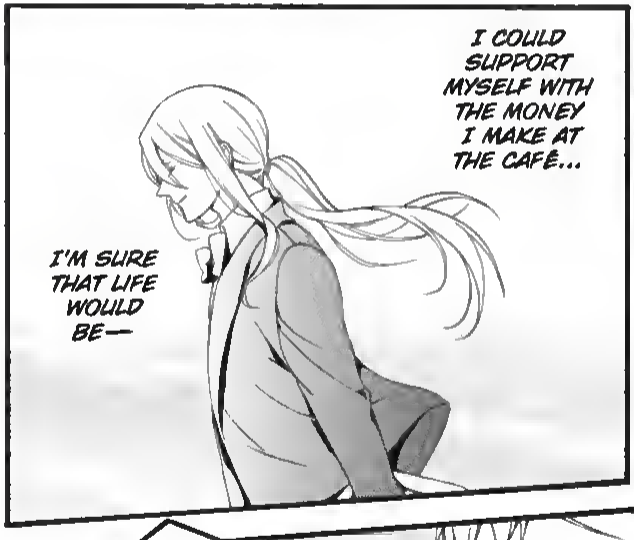
LICHT...!
DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER...
...HOW SICKLY AND FRAIL I WAS AS A CHILD?
IT ALWAYS COMES FIRST.
IF THE KING'S SON CAUSED A SCANDAL, IT WOULD SMEAR THE KING'S HONOR.
YOU NEVER VISITED ME IN MY SICKROOM.
NOT EVEN ONCE.
AND NOW YOU WANT TO ACT LIKE A LOVING FATHER? THIS IS TO PROTECT ME? HA!
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE REPUTATION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BUTT INTO MY LIFE!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS ABOUT A SICKLY LITTLE BRAT, A FIFTH SON. NOT WHEN HE COULD NEVER POSSIBLY SUCCEED THE THRONE!
.....

NOT NOW NOR BACK THEN...
...HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO UNDER-STAND A THING ABOUT ME!!
LICHT...
CALM YOUR-SELF. LET US TALK—
LICHT!
I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!
DASH
FORGET IT...

YOUR MAJESTY!
TMP
TMP
WHAP
GOOD-NESS, VIKTOR...
YOU ARE ASTOUND-ING...
.....
TMP

I THINK... I'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH...
THEY WON'T GIVE CHASE...
HAH!
HFF!
HFF!
HAH!
HFF!
I RAN OUT PURELY ON IMPULSE.
I HAVE TO THINK OF WHAT TO DO...
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I CAN TURN.
...BUT THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED TO SOME NOBLE OR OTHER.
I COULD ALWAYS STAY WITH A GIRL FOR THE NIGHT...


Kaffeehauser
Miller
Meyer
Kaffeehauser
Miller
Meyer


I'M SURE THAT LIFE WOULD BE—
I COULD SUPPORT MYSELF WITH THE MONEY I MAKE AT THE CAFÉ...

I'LL ASK FOR HELP WHEN I'VE FINISHED MY WORK.
I'M SURE SOMEONE CAN OFFER ME A PLACE TO SLEEP FOR A SHORT WHILE.

WAIT!

ZWOOSH

トッ
TAP
FATHER...
TEACHER...!
NO WAY.
THERE'S NOTHING TO DISCUSS.
PLEASE RETURN TO THE PALACE FOR NOW.
LET US APPROACH THIS DISCUSSION WITH LEVEL HEADS.
YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT. YOUR HIGHNESS NEEDS TO—
I HAVE WORK TO DO. GET OUT OF MY WAY.

IF YOU WOULD BE THIS STUBBORN ...
...I HAVE MY OWN PLAN.
...PLAN?
.....
WH- WHAT ...
...ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
AHH!

!
THERE YOU ARE, RICH!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
OH. WHO MIGHT THESE GENTLEMEN BE?
GOOD EVE-NING, KIND SIR.
I AM HIS FATHER.
YOUR SON HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO US.
W-WAIT!
I'M THE PROPRI-ETOR OF THIS CAFÉ.
HEH.
THE PROPRI-ETOR?
YOU'VE COME AT THE PERFECT TIME.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK OF YOU.
—!!
NO...HE'S GOING TO MAKE ME QUIT AND DRAG ME BACK TO THE PALACE...!
LUNGE
NO! YOU CAN'T!
STO—

WILL YOU TAKE ME ON...
...AS A WORKER AT YOUR ESTABLISH-MENT FOR A SHORT WHILE?

WH...?
AS A WOR

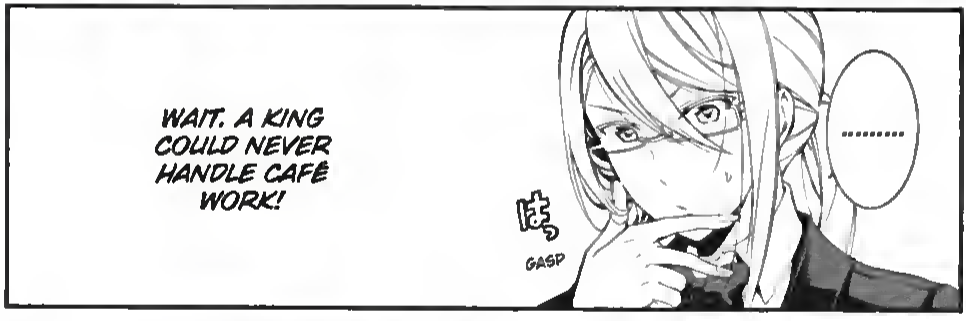
!!!!?
E-
ERM...
SMILE

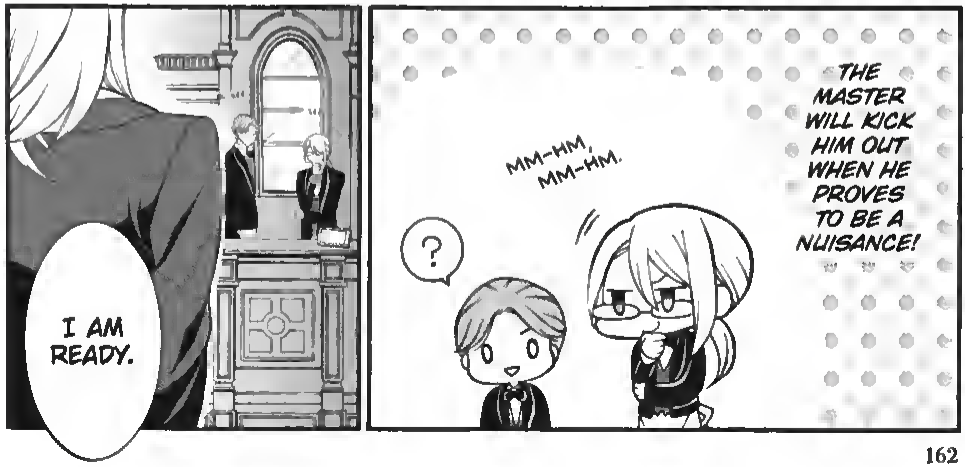
Chapter 18
Father and Son
WILL YOU TAKE ME ON...
...AS A WORKER AT YOUR ESTABLISH-MENT FOR A SHORT WHILE?
U-UH, WHAT? WORK ...???
A KING, WORKING AT A CAFÉ!?
VIKTOR... WHAT HAS POSSESSED HIM?
SMILE

MY SON TELLS ME THAT HIS WORK AT YOUR ESTABLISHMENT IS REWARDING.
I AM UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE IS SO HEADSTRONG ABOUT IT.
THUS, I TOO SHALL WORK HERE...
...SO THAT I MAY COME TO UNDERSTAND HIS HEART.
CLENCH
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
YOU SAID THAT I NEVER TRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, DID YOU NOT?
I-I DID, BUT STILL...!
GAPE
N-NOW, NOW, YOU MUST NOT FORCE THE ISSUE.
LOOK, NOW. YOU ARE INCONVENIENCING THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT.
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
TEARY
.....

WHAA!!?
...YOU'RE HIRED!
YAY!
FOR THE NEXT FIVE HOURS, UNTIL WE CLOSE FOR THE DAY...
...ALL RIGHT.
COME, LET'S GET YOU INTO A UNIFORM.
MM.
I CAN'T TURN AWAY THAT SINCERE GAZE.
HE'S A GOOD FATHER, CONSIDERING HIS SON'S FEELINGS.
YOU CAN'T! I... HE'S... W-WELL...
W—
WAIT, SIR!
T-TEACH... WHY DID YOU BRING THAT MADMAN HERE?
.....
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
MM
YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING. ARE YOU AN ACTOR?
SAY, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR..

THIS HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND!
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THE OLD MAN THINKING!?
THE KING. WORKING AT A CAFÉ.
THE KING. WORKING AT A CAFÉ!
THE MASTER SAYS HE'S HANDSOME!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE RICH'S FATHER!


WAIT. A KING COULD NEVER HANDLE CAFÉ WORK!
.....
GASP


I AM READY.
MM-HM, MM-HM.
?
THE MASTER WILL KICK HIM OUT WHEN HE PROVES TO BE A NUISANCE!

OOOHH
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
I HOPE I DO NOT SEEM OUT OF PLACE.

H-HE LOOKS LIKE HE COULD HANDLE THE PLACE ON HIS OWN...!!
EEK!
YOU'RE SO HANDSOME!
IT'S LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR YOU!
GEEZ. DON'T FAWN OVER HIM!
HE'S MUCH OLDER THAN HE LOOKS, YOU KNOW!
JUMP
I THOUGHT THE BOYS WORKING HERE WERE GOOD-LOOKING...
...BUT THEY'RE NOTHING NEXT TO HIM...
TOO TRUE!
OUCH.
THE BOYS
HEINE! A KREUZER FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?
WELL, AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT LOOK ODD.
JEALOUS THAT YOUR FATHER'S GETTING ALL THE ATTENTION, RICH?
I AM NOT JEAL-OUS!!
HE'S MY FATHER! DON'T OGLE HIM!

SLURRRP
ぷぷぷぷっ
DOUBLE SNUB
HEIIIII-NEEE?
ぷぷっ
SNUB
HEINEEE?
...HAD I KNOWN YOU WOULD GO TO SUCH PREPOS-TEROUS LENGTHS...
...I WOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN YOU HERE.
HMPH!
YOU WERE GOING TO RETRIEVE HIS HIGHNESS, WERE YOU NOT?
YES, BUT I CANNOT PERSUADE LICHT TO COME HOME WITHOUT FIRST UNDERSTANDING HIS FEELINGS.

NATU-RALLY!
I MAY LEAVE THE MATTER OF PRINCE LICHT... ...IN YOUR HANDS, YES?
...AS YOU WISH.
I WILL WAIT HERE. I HAVE MATERIALS TO DRAFT FOR THE PRINCES'S LESSONS.
THE PRINCES ARE A HANDFUL, BUT THEIR FATHER IS NOT TO BE UNDER-ESTIMATED EITHER.
THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR YEARS AND YEARS, AND STILL, HE NEVER FAILS TO ASTOUND ME.
THIS MATTER IS BETWEEN FATHER AND SON.
AS AN EDUCATOR, I CAN ONLY WATCH OVER THEM...
.....
.....
L... LITTLE BR...
STAB
YOU'RE RICH'S LITTLE BROTHER? WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER GLASS?

H-HUH? WAIT, ME?
OF COURSE, YOU.
I'M ALL YOURS.
NOW THEN, LICHT.
SHOW YOUR FATHER THE ROPES.
POMF
B-BUT WE WERE JUST FIGHTING MINUTES AGO...
NOT NOW NOR BACK THEN HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT ME!!
HOW DO I TALK TO HIM?
THAT'S YOUR CUE!
WAITER!
D-DON'T THINK. JUST WALK HIM THROUGH IT.
IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE WORK. HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT IN A FEW HOURS!
HERE, THIS IS OUR MENU. YOU CARRY SERVING TRAYS LIKE SO..
I SEE.
HAAH
THE SOONER HE BLUNDERS, THE SOONER HE'LL GO HOME, I HOPE...

GOOD EVENING, MADAM.
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT.
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE; YOUR EVERY WISH, MY COMMAND.
I'LL SEE TO IT FORTHWITH.
PANIC
PANIC
U-U-U-U-U-UM!!-I'LL HAVE A FRANZISKANER AND A LINZER TORTE!
ほんゎ
KABOOOM
!?

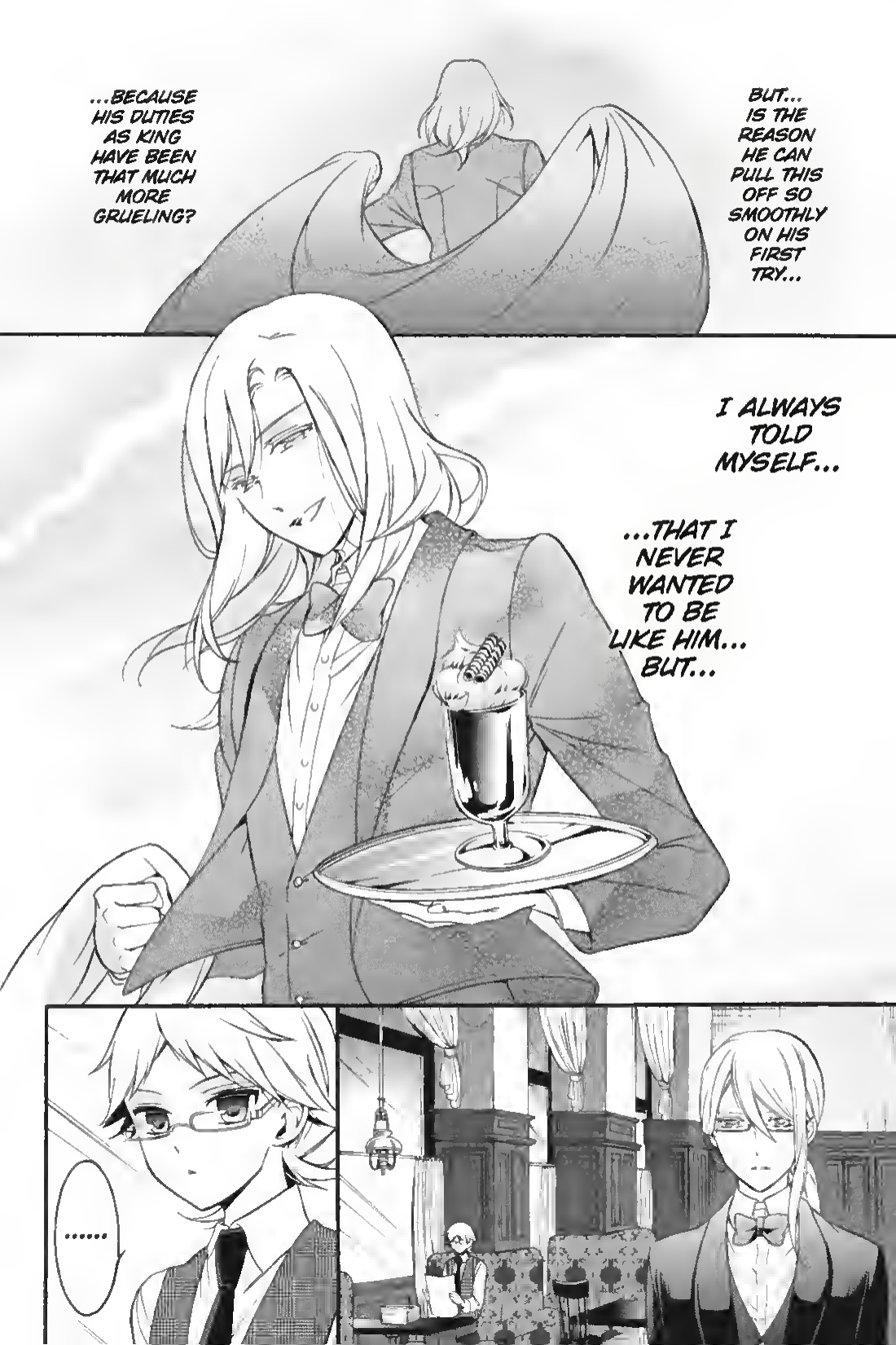
I MODELED MY BEHAVIOR AFTER MY ATTENDANTS. WAS THAT SATIS-FACTORY?
.....
I-I GUESS... BUT GETTING DOWN ON ONE KNEE WAS A BIT MUCH...
OTHER-WISE THERE WASN'T REALLY MUMBLE MUMBLE.
AH GOOD.
I WILL BEAR THAT IN MIND.
N-NO MATTER. ANY OLD GROWN-UP COULD TAKE SOMEONE'S ORDER.
BUT GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE IS AN ART.
FATHER COULD NEVER DO IT. NEVER.
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
Y-YOU SEE... ...THIS CUSTOMER IS A FOREIGNER.
SWOOP
F-FATHER, WAIT...!

PUIS-JE VOUS AIDER?
<MAY I HELP YOU?>
BEAM
HE ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE STATION.
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE, SIR!
GAPE
.....
OH, NOT SO. I OFTEN DEAL WITH PEOPLE FROM FOREIGN LANDS IN MY LINE OF WORK.

IT WAS JUST A FLUKE!
NO! THAT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
CLENCH
WHOA... FATHER CAN SPEAK OTHER LANGUAGES ...
MY WINNING SMILE AND POLISHED CONVERSATION SKILLS MAKE ME POPULAR WITH MEN AND WOMEN, YOUNG AND OLD (BUT MOSTLY WOMEN).
FATHER SPENDS ALL OF HIS TIME HOLED UP IN HIS STUDY. HE COULD NEVER MATCH ME—
HMM? THAT NOVEL...
IT'S AN OLD BOOK, THIS ONE. HAVE YOU READ IT?
YES, IT IS A FAVORITE OF MINE.
I LIKED THE PROTAGONIST IN PARTICULAR.
OH, YOU DEAR! YOU HAVE THE SMILE OF AN ANGEL.
YOU DO THIS OLD WOMAN'S HEART GOOD
THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT.

THE NEW HANDSOME WAITER COULD BE HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S LONG-LOST TWIN.
CHATTER
わい
HE'S SO KIND AND SENSITIVE AND—WHY, HE'S PERFECT!
CHATTER
わい
YOU'RE THE FIRST TO UNDERSTAND SO WELL!
HUH?
HUH...?
CHATTER
わい
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WOULD YOU MARRY MY DAUGHTER?
NO, MARRY MINE!
CHATTER
わい
OH WAITERRR! I'D LIKE TO ORDER, PLEASE!
CHATTER
わい
OHH...
HE'S THE NEW WAITER?
HE'S SOOO HAND-SOME!
CHATTER
わい
.....GH.
WE'RE PACKED WITH CUSTOMERS!!!
NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE THE JOB DOWN PERFECTLY, HE'S BECOME THE MOST POPULAR WAITER IN THE CAFE, ALL IN ONE SHIFT...!
AMAZ-ING! YOUR FATHER IS AMAZ-ING!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY GRANDSON. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CANDY?

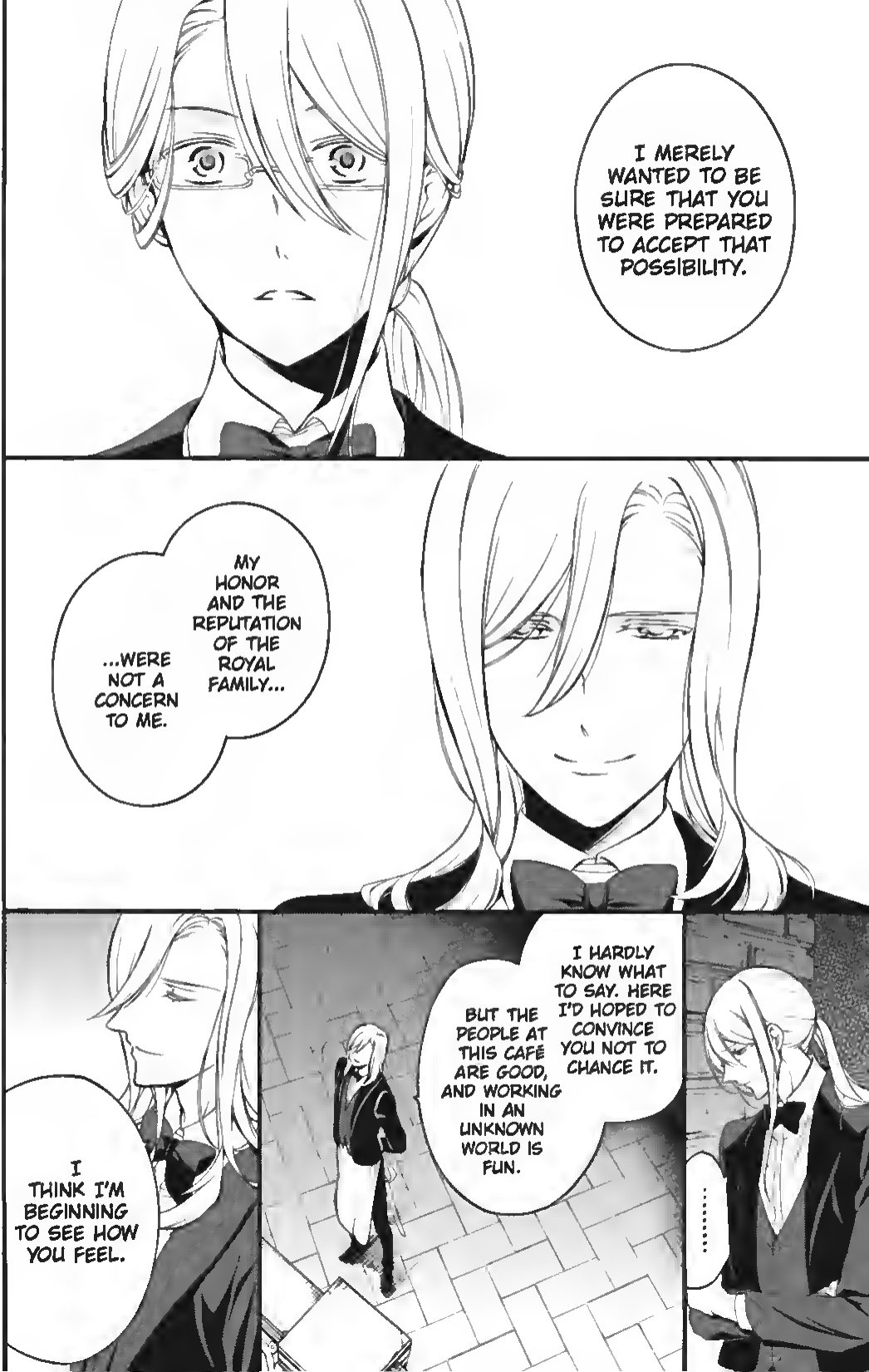
I...I LOST TO HIM...
I DIDN'T KNOW...
...THAT FATHER IS A MAN OF SUCH TALENT.
THE FATHER I KNOW...
...WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS WORK THAT HE NEVER CAME TO CONSOLE ME AT MY SICKBED.
YET ON THE RARE OCCASION THAT HE SEES US, SUDDENLY, HE ACTS LIKE A DOTING FATHER. IT'S MADDENING.
.....


...BECAUSE HIS DUTIES AS KING HAVE BEEN THAT MUCH MORE GRUELING?
BUT... IS THE REASON HE CAN PULL THIS OFF SO SMOOTHLY ON HIS FIRST TRY...
I ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF...
...THAT I NEVER WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM... BUT...
.....

GOOD SIR!
WON'T YOU STAY ON WITH US?
I THANK YOU FOR THE KIND OFFER, BUT...
BOTH THE CUSTOMERS AND WE WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU!
EVEN IF IT'S NOT FOR VERY LONG?
PLEASE!?
WAIT. I'LL HELP YOU.
ACK!
TMP-
I-I'M GOING... TO BRING IN THE SIGN...
THINK ABOUT IT! PLEASE THINK OF IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY!!

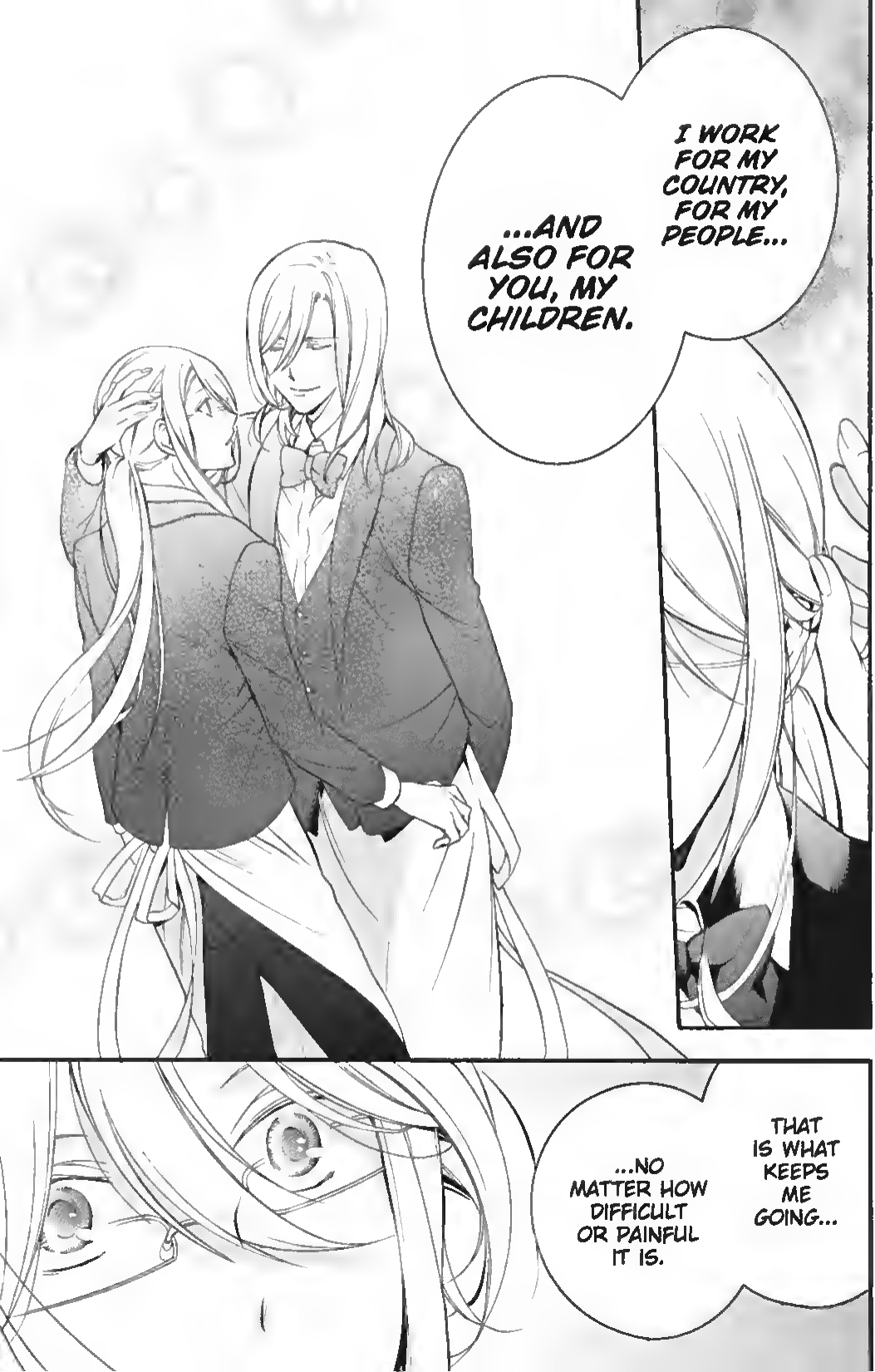
LICHT.
.....
I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.

I AM SORRY FOR BARGING INTO THE CAFÉ...
...AND I AM SORRY FOR THE PAIN I CAUSED YOU IN THE PAST.
...HUH?
I DID NOT PROPERLY EXPLAIN MYSELF EARLIER.
IF YOU WERE TO BE INJURED IN A PUBLIC PLACE...
...OR IF YOUR WORKING HERE WAS NEGATIVELY PUBLICIZED...
...IT WOULD DAMAGE YOUR CHANCES OF BECOMING KING.


I MERELY WANTED TO BE SURE THAT YOU WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT POSSIBILITY.
MY HONOR AND THE REPUTATION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY...
...WERE NOT A CONCERN TO ME.
I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HERE I'D HOPED TO CONVINCE YOU NOT TO CHANCE IT.
BUT THE PEOPLE AT THIS CAFÉ ARE GOOD, AND WORKING IN AN UNKNOWN WORLD IS FUN.
I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO SEE HOW YOU FEEL.
.....

I WON'T FORCE YOU TO QUIT.
WHETHER YOU CONTINUE TO WORK HERE IS YOUR DECISION TO MAKE.
FATHER ...
...I LOVE THIS CAFÉ.
WORKING HERE IS A FAR GRANDER TIME THAN HIDING AWAY IN THE PALACE.
BUT...

LICHT ...
...WOULD FEEL WRONG TO ME.
...MAKING YOU WORRY...
I ALWAYS BLAMED YOU FOR NOT COMING TO SEE ME.
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE DEMANDS OF YOUR DUTIES.
IT WAS I WHO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND YOU.
.....
WHA...?
...UNDER-STAND ME AT ALL, MY SON.
YOU DO NOT ...
A KING HAS AN IMPORTANT JOB, WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF HIS COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.
OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T PUT YOUR CHILDREN FIRST.


I WORK FOR MY COUNTRY, FOR MY PEOPLE...
...AND ALSO FOR YOU, MY CHILDREN.
THAT IS WHAT KEEPS ME GOING...
...NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT OR PAINFUL IT IS.

FATHER...
.....
"WHY WON'T FATHER COME FOR ME?
"HE CARES MORE ABOUT HIS WORK THAN HE CARES ABOUT ME, THE SICKLY ONE!"

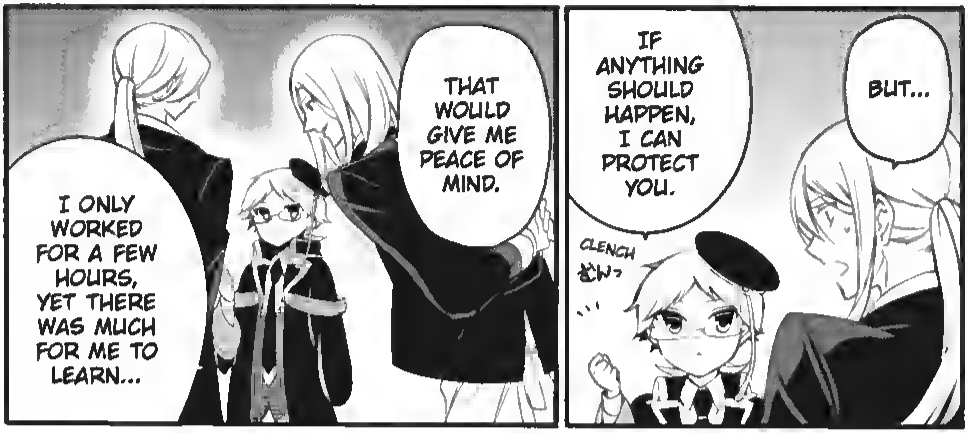
THEY'VE SETTLED THE MATTER, HAVE THEY?
I ADMIT I WAS A BIT CONCERNED.
...I AM SORRY.
I AM SORRY. IF ONLY I HAD TOLD YOU BACK THEN...
BUT HE IS UNFALTERINGLY LOYAL.
BOTH AS A KING AND A FATHER.
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM THE VERY FIRST PERSON TO HAVE GAINED MY TRUST.

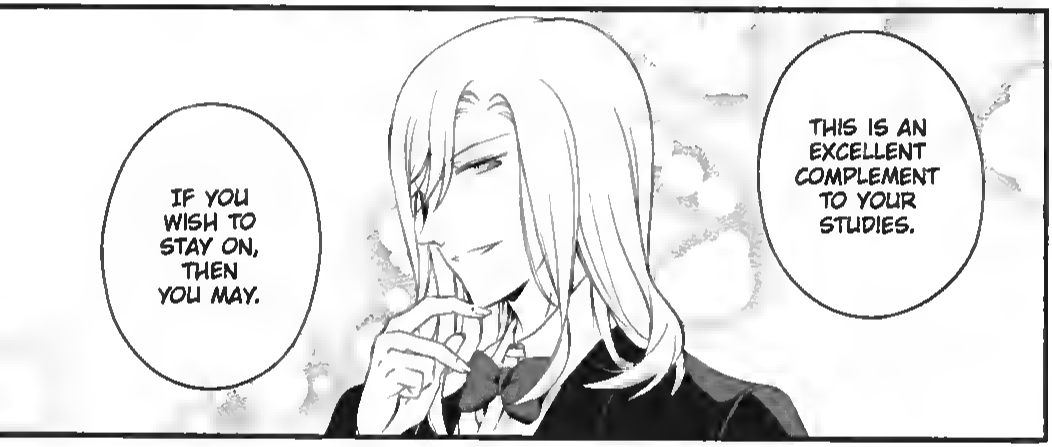
I'LL MISS THE PLACE...
I MUST GO TELL THE OWNER...
...THAT THIS IS MY LAST DAY OF WORK.
.....

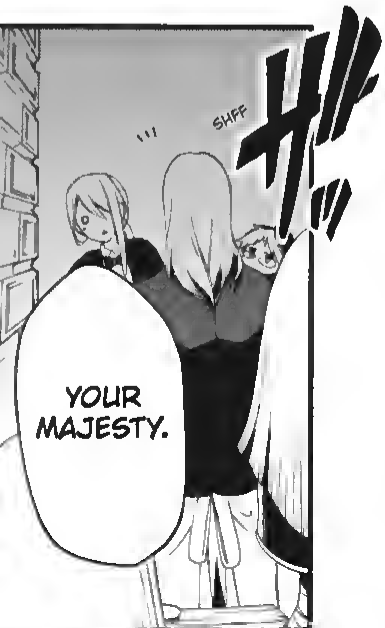
WHY NOT STAY ON, THEN?
PWOP
にゃっ

I HAVE DECIDED TO TURN THIS INTO A WEEKLY OUTING.
MY WORK WENT MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN I ANTICIPATED.
YOU COULD WORK WHENEVER I AM PRESENT HERE.
HOW DOES IT SOUND?

HUH!?
T-TEACH!?
RUB RUB RUB

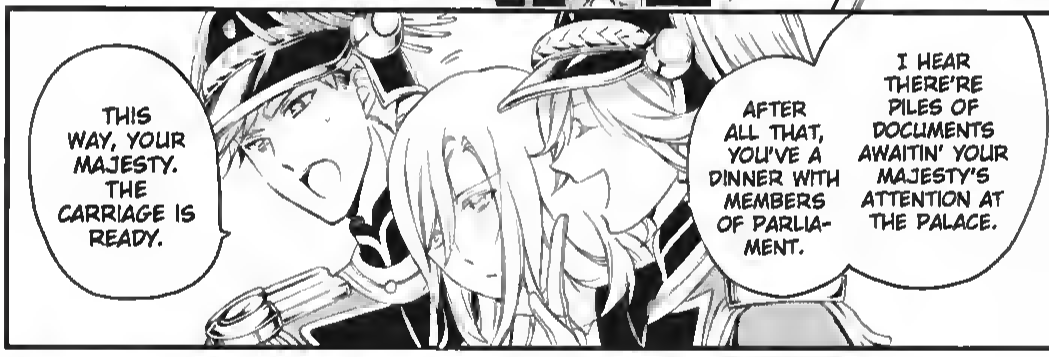

I ONLY WORKED FOR A FEW HOURS, YET THERE WAS MUCH FOR ME TO LEARN...
THAT WOULD GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND.
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN, I CAN PROTECT YOU.
CLENCH
BUT...

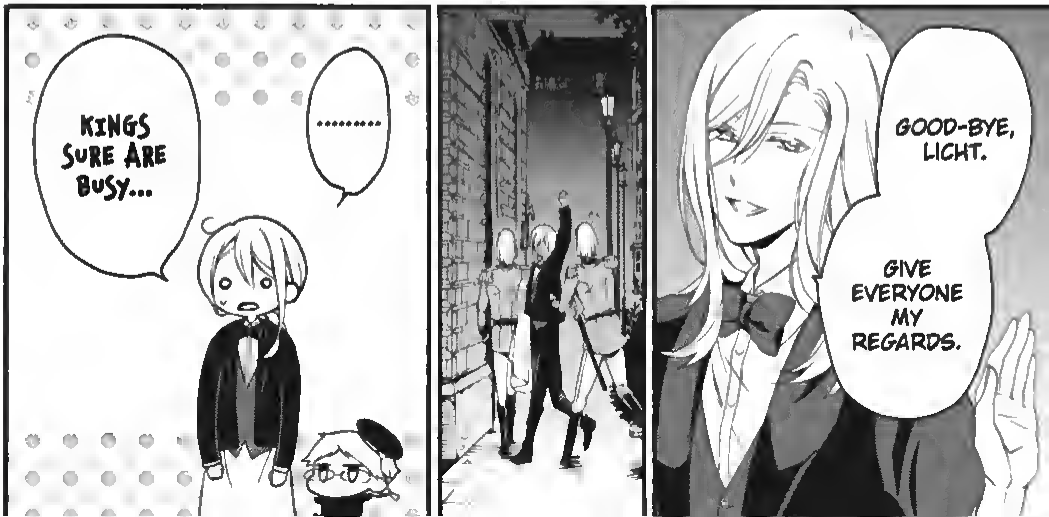

IF YOU WISH TO STAY ON, THEN YOU MAY.
THIS IS AN EXCELLENT COMPLEMENT TO YOUR STUDIES.


SHFF
YOUR MAJESTY.

.....

I BEG YOUR PARDON?
WE ONLY LET YOU THROUGH THE FRONT GATES ON ONE CONDITION!
D-DID YOU FORGET!? WE STOPPED YOU, BUT YOU INSISTED ON GOING.
WE'RE HERE TO ESCORT YOU HOME.
IT'S TIME, AS YOU PROMISED.
HUFF! HUFF!


THIS WAY, YOUR MAJESTY. THE CARRIAGE IS READY.
AFTER ALL THAT, YOU'VE A DINNER WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.
I HEAR THERE'RE PILES OF DOCUMENTS AWAITIN' YOUR MAJESTY'S ATTENTION AT THE PALACE.


KINGS SURE ARE BUSY...
.....
GOOD-BYE, LICHT.
GIVE EVERYONE MY REGARDS.

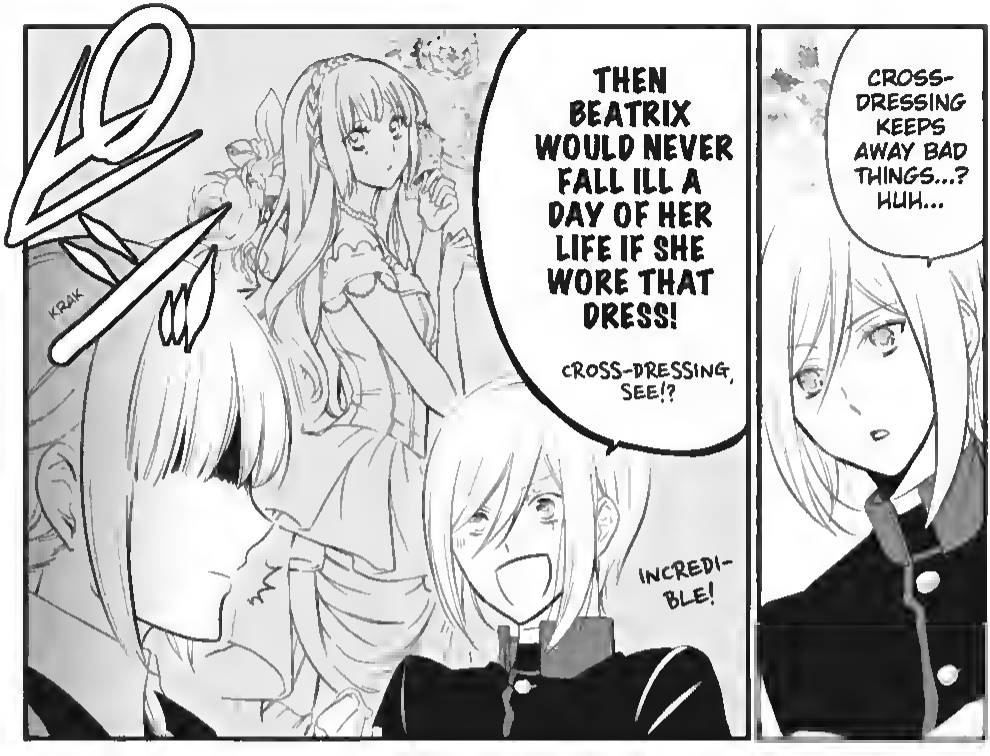
ALL OCCUPATIONS ARE DEMANDING TO SOME EXTENT.
YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD KNOW.
MM, I GUESS SO.
...YOU KNOW...
...IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD TO BE A KING, IF I COULD BE LIKE FATHER.
FROM NOW ON...
WINK
...I'LL GIVE YOUR LESSONS MY BEST.
OH, BUT I'LL STILL BE WORKING AT THE CAFÉ. MY FANS WOULD CRY FOR MISSING ME, AFTER ALL. OOF. IT'S A SIN TO BE ME! I'M A PUBLIC IDOL!
STARE
WH—
WHAT?
OH, I WAS PONDERING WHETHER I'D MISJUDGED YOU.
TO BE QUITE FRANK, OUT OF YOU FOUR PRINCES, YOU MAY VERY WELL HAVE THE MOST HIDDEN POTENTIAL.
IT SEEMS YOU ARE ALWAYS HIDING YOUR TRUE NATURE BEHIND AN ACT.

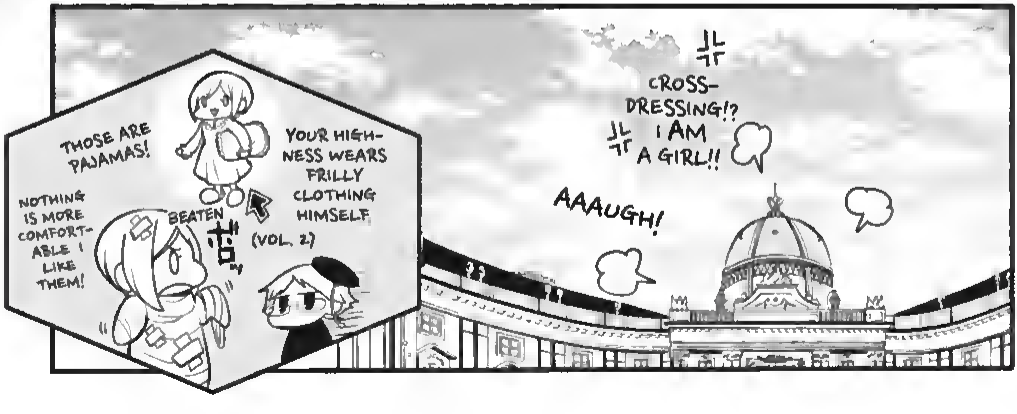
PRINCE LICHT, IN TRUTH, YOU ARE...
...BUT AN INCREDIBLY ORDINARY CHILD, AREN'T YOU?
!!?
STARE
NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU GROW, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THE YOUNGEST BROTHER...YOU PICK FIGHTS WITH PRINCE BRUNO...
...YOU REBEL AGAINST YOUR FATHER IN A MANNER TYPICAL OF YOUR AGE...
...AND IN THE END, YOU CRIED OVER BOTH OF THOSE THINGS.
TIME OUT! HOW CAN YOU FIGURE THAT!? LOOK AT ME! I'M A MADDENINGLY BEAUTIFUL, CHARISMATIC PRINCE!
AH-HA-HA-HA! WHAT A JOKER YOU ARE!
YOU NEEDN'T FORCE YOURSELF TO PLAY THE JESTER.
DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE A GOOD BOY..
STARE
NOOO! DON'T LOOK AT MEEE!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT BLANK STAAAARE!!
WHAT'S WRONG, RICH?
SPARE ME!
.....

...IT COULDN'T BE...
...NOW, HOW DID THE COUNT FIND OUT THAT PRINCE LICHT WAS WORKING IN SECRET?
...WHAT A PITY.
HERE I THOUGHT THE COMPETITION FOR THE THRONE WOULD BE ONE FOOL LESS.
AH, WELL. IT WAS BUT A SMALL MATTER.
I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED MUCH TO COME OF IT.

IF I DIG DEEP ENOUGH, I'M SURE I'LL FIND PLENTY OF SKELETONS IN THE ROYAL CLOSET...
NOW, THEN...
...WHOM SHALL I BRING TO RUIN FIRST, I WONDER?

GEH!
...WHY DID LICHT WEAR DRESSES WHEN HE WAS LITTLE?
TEACH ME!
EXTRA LESSONS WITH PROFESSOR HEINE
SAY, I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THESE OLD PHOTOS, AND I MUST ASK...
H-HOLD ON, NOW. THAT'S RUBBISH ...!
I NEVER NOTICED IT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR FRILLY CLOTHING?
CUTE..
WE WERE ALL SO SMALL!
OH THIS TAKES ME BACK!
YEAH! I WAS FORCED INTO IT!!
FORCED, I SAY!!
IT IS A COMMON CUSTOM IN MANY LANDS.
THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN TO DRESSING PRINCE LICHT AS A GIRL BECAUSE OF HIS SICKLY CONSTITUTION.
WOW...
PANTR
DRESSING YOUNG BOYS IN FEMALE CLOTHING IS A TRADITION TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS.
FEMALES ARE A SYMBOL OF LIFE. IT IS SAID THAT THIS KEEPS SICKNESS AWAY FROM THEM.


KRAK
THEN BEATRIX WOULD NEVER FALL ILL A DAY OF HER LIFE IF SHE WORE THAT DRESS!
CROSS-DRESSING, SEE!?
INCREDI-BLE!
CROSS-DRESSING KEEPS AWAY BAD THINGS...? HUH...



SPECIAL THANKS YOSHI KOUJU-SAN MY EDITOR, AKIYAMA-SAN

The Royal Tutor 4
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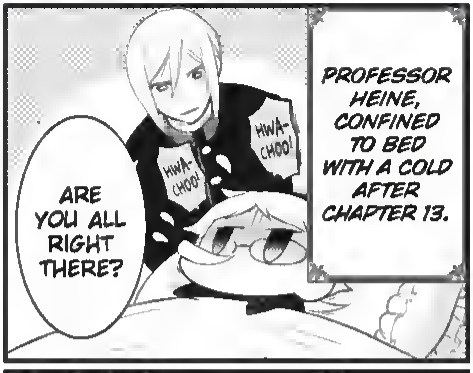
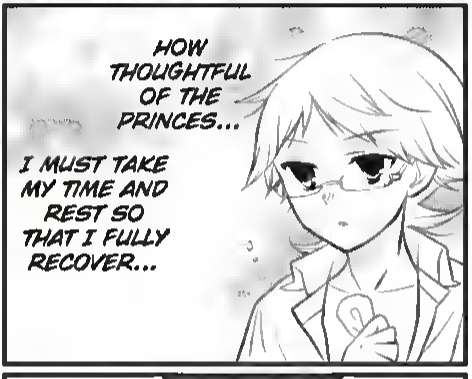
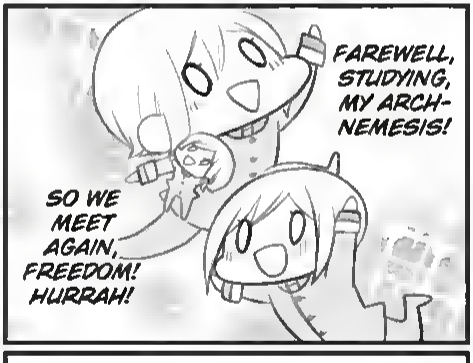
I ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO BE OF AID...
I'M HERE TO PLAY!
TEACHER... HERE TO VISIT...
SNIFFLE! SNIFF!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT THERE?
HWA-CHOO!
HWA-CHOO!
PROFESSOR HEINE, CONFINED TO BED WITH A COLD AFTER CHAPTER 13.

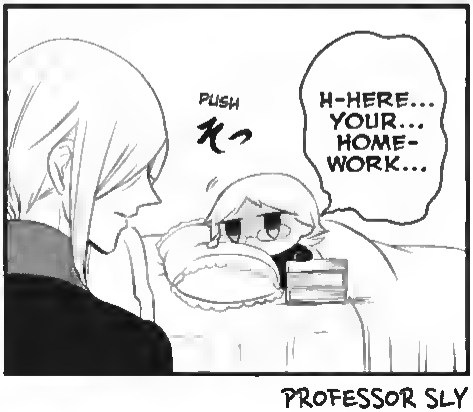

HOW THOUGHTFUL OF THE PRINCES...
I MUST TAKE MY TIME AND REST SO THAT I FULLY RECOVER...

IN THAT STATE, HOW ARE YOU TO TEACH—?
GASP
WAIT, THIS MEANS I'M FREE UNTIL HE RECOV-ERS!

...SO THAT I MIGHT SHARE IN MASTER'S SUFFERING ON SOME LEVEL...
I HAVE DECIDED TO GO WITHOUT FOOD UNTIL YOU HAVE A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH...
GRMBL


FAREWELL, STUDYING, MY ARCH-NEMESIS!
SO WE MEET AGAIN, FREEDOM! HURRAH!

THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE! I MUST RETURN TO FULL HEALTH!
BRU-NIE!?
FLOP
NOW THEN, I MUST EMBARK ON A PILGRIMAGE TO EACH CHURCH IN THE COUNTRY TO PRAY FOR YOUR HEALTH...


PUSH
H-HERE... YOUR... HOME-WORK...

Translation Notes

Page 110
An ***Einspänner*** is a double espresso topped with a dollop of whipped cream and extra sugar.

A ***Kapuziner***, as Licht explains, is coffee topped with whipped cream.

Sacher torte is a famous type of Austrian cake originally created by Franz Sacher for the royal family. The dessert is a chocolate cake with layers separated by apricot jam and covered on the top and sides with a thick chocolate frosting.

Page 117
A ***Schwarzer*** is an espresso served black (*schwarz* being the German word for "black").

A ***Franziskaner*** is a *Melange* (espresso mixed with hot, foamed milk) topped with whipped cream instead of foamed milk.

Kardinalschnitten, or Cardinal Slice, is a layered Viennese cake with a coffee-flavored cream filling. When sliced, its strips of white meringue and yellow sponge cake with the common addition of raspberry preserves resemble the robes of officials of the Catholic church, which is where it is thought to have gotten its name.

Germknödel is a yeast dough dumpling with plum jam inside, traditionally served topped with sugar and poppy seeds.

Kaiserschmarren is a pancake, shredded and fried, usually topped with powdered sugar.

Page 123
Fräulein is used to address unmarried women, although it has fallen out of use among present-day German speakers.

Page 124
Hau ruck is German for "heave-ho."

Page 168
Linzer torte is a short pastry from Linz, Austria that has a jam filling and a lattice design on top.

The Royal Tutor ❸

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Erin Hickman

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
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First Yen Press ebook Edition: September 2015

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-35432-5

App ISBN: 978-0-316-35437-0